

THE INDEPENDENT



Wednesday 22 October 1997

45p No 3,434

INSIDE TODAY

17/FASHION



Swanky street-wear:
Jackets, goggles and
anti-pollution masks

7/COMPUTERS
Microsoft's bully-boy
tactics exposed

TODAY'S NEWS

Court told of foiled IRA bomb plot

The leader of an IRA terrorist unit was shot dead by police as they prepared to carry out a devastating bomb attack on London, the Old Bailey heard. The terrorists had prepared four huge lorry bombs, 100 bags of improvised explosive, timers, fuses and detonators, the court heard. Page 3

Bird rescue a waste

Cleaning up seabirds which have been polluted by oil slicks is a waste of time and money. Research commissioned after the Sea Empress tanker disaster in Wales shows that most birds rescued and released back into the wild died after a month. Page 3

Danish mass killings

A nurse and a doctor have been charged with killing 22 elderly people at a nursing home in Denmark. The victims were injected with a morphine-based drug in what is believed to have been organised euthanasia. Page 11

Christmas crackers

The traditional features that make Christmas special are disappearing and it is being left to women to create a "magical occasion" for their families, according to a report. Page 9

Tory dress dilemma

William Hague and around 150 Tory MPs yesterday held a bonding session at the seaside to begin the task of modernising the party. But Eastbourne man was clearly in a state of confusion about how he should dress for his new image. Page 14

Pound on the up

The pound climbed further yesterday as a result of the Chancellor's firm that he has ruled out joining a European single currency during the lifetime of this parliament. Business and union leaders urged the Government to reconsider as the pound took its toll on exports. Page 23

SEEN & HEARD

When schoolgirl Kelly Manning realised she had dialled 112 instead of directory inquiries on 192, she apologised and hung up. What she didn't realise was that her number had triggered a Europe-wide emergency response.

Minutes later, her father returned home to find squad cars screeching to a halt outside. Detectives leapt out, kicked their door down and searched the house.

Yesterday BT revealed that Kelly, 14, had accidentally dialled a European emergency line. The 112 number, equivalent to 999, is designed to aid visitors. A BT spokesman said: "The caller would have got a normal 999 operator who probably heard a worried-sounding child's voice and errred on the side of caution."

"Poor Kelly was pretty embarrassed," said her mother, Mary. "She said: 'Why is it when I make a mistake everybody has to find out?'"

'I felt the knife at my neck. My wife was so brave. She tried to help. So they cut her throat in front of me.'

Algeria, this autumn: a people in agony



A hooded man stands guard at the funeral of a young militia member killed by Islamist terrorists at Ait Said village, in the Kabylie region

Photograph: Abbas/Magnum

Amid the ruins of their burnt-out homes, the survivors of Algeria's civil war massacres have been describing the slaughter of hundreds of women and babies in the countryside south of Algiers. Many of the hamlets are now Bosnian-styled ghost towns of crumbling walls and collapsed roofs. Robert Fisk reports from the village of Rais where the worst massacre of the war occurred.

From the roof of Ali's house, you can see the local army barracks just a third of a mile across the fields, yellow-painted with a green and white Algerian flag fluttering gaily from the roof. No, Ali says, he doesn't know why the soldiers did not intervene when the murderers turned up - 60 of them, he says, dressed in Afghan robes and hats - to cut the throats of his family. Round the side of Ali's neck, there is a ferocious purple scar that slices through his skin, crudely stitched - because they cut Ali's throat too.

"There were up to 100 men who came into our village from three directions - they were here for at least three hours," he said his head leaning at an odd, permanent angle to the right.

"There was shooting and screaming. No one helped us."

Around him, in cheap brick villas and chicken yards and burnt-out garages lay still the thick scum of old blood, all that remains in the village of the 349 Algerians - mostly women and children - slaughtered in the late evening of 29 August. When I asked Ali to describe the night, he stared at me in silence, fingering his left arm, which was swathed in bandages but revealed another frightful purple scar at the wrist.

A neighbour whispered in my ear: "They knifed his wife in front of him." And it was this that forced Ali to talk. "I had most of the family here," he said. "My wife, my three sons, my brother, his wife, sons and daughter, and many cousins."

"We hid in the house but they threw bombs through the windows and broke down the door with axes." Ali swayed against the balcony wall. I had already

crunched through the carbonised interior of the house and found, beside the begonia plants and vines on the balcony, an old tray bearing the Arabic words: "There is only one God but God and his Prophet is Mohamed." Beside it, as if painted onto the wall in defiance of all religion, was a darkened stream of blood.

"My baby son Mohamed was five and they cut his throat and threw him out of the upper window," Ali said. "Then they cut the throat of my eldest son Rabeb and then my brother's throat because he saw they were kidnapping his wife and tried to stop them. They took some of the other girls." And Ali raised a hand and said: "Blood." There was more downstairs, stained brown across the living room floor where Ali's final cavalry took place.

"They cut my throat and I felt the knife in my neck but I tried to shield myself and

BY ROBERT
FISK

the man sliced me on the arm. My wife was so brave. She tried to help, to fight them, to save me. So they dragged her to the door where I was lying and slit her throat in front of me."

From across the fields, there was a sharp report, a falling mortar shell or a mine. The police lounging in the street outside - for there are security forces aplenty in Rais now - did not even show interest, but Ali's memories moved into fearful overdrive.

"There was another baby, the mother tried to hide it behind some bricks but they cut her throat and then did the same to the baby on the bricks. The man who used the knife on me - I recognised him. I had seen him on the streets of our village."

There are times in this place of atrocities where the sheer awfulness of what happened blinds one to obvious questions. Why didn't the army venture across the fields? They must have heard the shrieks from the buildings on the main road. They must have seen the fires in the roofs. They must have heard the bombs. And who are the so-called "Islamists" performing these acts of un-

paralleled butchery? Why should Islamists murder the very same villagers who voted en masse for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) - banned after the national elections that they would have won were cancelled in 1991 - and who have traditionally opposed the Algerian government?

To the neighbouring village of Bentaha - with about 240 dead a month ago - the old FIS election signs remain spray-painted on walls and lamp posts. And here, too, a 54-year-old man, who would only give his name as Said, claimed that the village men had fled to warn the army, leaving their women and children behind.

The evidence of what happened was there for all to see. The big houses - for the poor fled to larger homes for protection - were burnt out, their backyards swamped with blood.

"The men ran away - it was a mistake," Said conceded miserably. "They knew what would happen. Some tried to throw stones and bricks from the roofs of the houses. One of our men got a rifle and killed one of these savages. The dead man turned out to be from this same village."

Again, the screaming had gone on long into the night. And again, soldiers from the local barracks only arrived after the murderers had fled.

The "Islamists", Said recalled, even shrieked curses as they poured through the unpaved streets in turbans and gowns. "They kept crying 'You will die and go to hell - we will kill you and go to heaven!'"

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TELEVISION The Eye, page 12
CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9

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2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Healing hands lead to alternative revolution

Whether it's having needles stuck into us or having our feet examined, alternative medicine is booming. One in four people say they use alternative therapies - a figure that has doubled over the past decade.

But a report by the King's Fund says that patients are not being offered the best possible treatment because of a lack of information and communication between holistic practitioners and mainstream health. A more integrated approach was needed to ensure patients are being given the most effective care.

Ten years ago, when Dr Patrick Pietroni (now professor of community care and primary health at Westminster University) broke new ground in establishing an NHS general practice with complementary practitioners on site at the Marylebone Health Centre in London, conventional doctors looked askance. Ten years on, nearly 40 per cent of general practices offer some form of complementary therapy.

"I couldn't work without complementary therapies now," says Dr Sue Morrison, of the centre. "Bodywork and massage in particular reaches everyone and is a wonderful comfort and healing thing to offer. We have a big multi-ethnic group of patients and it can help break through language barriers and help those with emotional as well as physical problems."

Irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, migraine, eczema, arthritis and chronic



fatigue syndrome - the disorders which, frequently, conventional medicine finds it difficult to deal with - are those for which complementary medicine seems to bring most relief.

Evidence is accumulating from controlled trials to show which techniques benefit particular conditions, says Dr David Peters, who led the working party for the King's Fund report. Osteopathy and chiropractic can relieve back and neck pain, hay fever responds to homeopathy and nutritional medicine may alleviate eczema. "With asthma, for example, you would always rely on conventional medicine to treat an acute attack," says Dr Peters. "But you could try complementary therapies such as nutritional medicine, homeopathy and acupuncture to reduce medication and the frequency of attacks."

If the fund has its way, there would be more alternative medicine training in medical and nursing schools, and also training for complementary practitioners in orthodox medicine. Practitioners carrying out alternative treatments must be regulated and patients need to be given more information about the different therapies and the qualifications of the therapists, it said.

Dr George Lewith, co-ordinator of the Centre for Complementary Medicine in Southampton and London, who is on the steering committee that carried out the report, said: "People are turning to complementary medicines because they may be disillusioned with conventional medicine. People feel natural is better than manufactured - wards are not full of people dying of acupuncture. Also, complementary practitioners are often spending more time with the patient, which empowers them."

However, he warned that, as with any profession, there are some who will fleece gullible people. "There is no doubt that this is happening and that is why it is important to get the regulation and training right so we know what is going on," he added.

The report found that most alternative medicines are paid for privately. However, complementary medicine is increasingly being provided within the NHS.

— Glenda Cooper and Anne Woodham

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PEOPLE



Teenager sees colour after life in black and white

A teenager told yesterday how he cried when he saw in colour for the first time, thanks to revolutionary contact lenses developed by British scientists.

Kevin Straight, 18, was born with a rare eye defect, affecting one in a million people, which meant he saw everything in black and white. Now he is learning about colour, after his grandparents Don and Dorothy Straight saved up for the special lenses.

"After I put them on I went for a walk and slowly saw the world in colour for the first time," said Kevin (above), from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. "Up until then I didn't have any idea what colour was because I couldn't see it."

"I couldn't stop crying because the world looked so different to what I was used to. The reds just kept on jumping out at me and I had to ask my grandparents which colours were which because I didn't have a clue."

"It has opened up a whole new world for me. I never realised just how beautiful things like trees and flowers are."

Mrs Straight, Kevin's grandmother, who raised him, said: "He is a completely changed person. I don't think anybody realises just how gloomy his world has been up until now."

"The opticians had told us there was nothing that could be done because he was so severely colour blind. When we heard about these lenses we decided

to give them a go to see if they would work for Kevin and the results were amazing.

"He dragged us outside and was rushing around pointing at things and asking what colour they were. It was all very emotional because he was crying."

Mrs Straight said that Kevin's girlfriend, Sarah Gill, had been nervous about his reaction, as she is half Vietnamese and wasn't sure how he would react to her skin.

"It has made absolutely no difference to Kevin because we explained to him beforehand that people have different colour and textures to their skin," Mrs Straight said.

Kevin's career prospects have also been aided by the new lenses. As a result of being able to see on-screen colour, he has secured a job working with computers.

The lenses, called Cromagen, have only been available at six opticians in Britain since they were released last July at £540 a pair. They were supplied by Bristol optician Roger Spooner, who said: "Kevin's case was very dramatic because he lived in a totally grey world. He was the first person I have come across who was totally colour blind."

"The whole practice was in tears when he came here to try on his lenses but it was a very rewarding experience to help him."

— Jojo Moyes

No agony over ecstasy for Fry

Stephen Fry, the actor and writer, mounted a spirited defence of his controversial comments on ecstasy yesterday, saying he would rather resign as rector of Dundee University than lie about his use of the drug.

"Do I advocate the use of illegal drugs? No. I do not because they are illegal," he told listeners to Radio One DJ Mark Radcliffe's *Afternoon Show*.

"I was asked in an interview if I have done ecstasy, I said yes I have. I said if I didn't really do much for me because it's all about dancing and I'm not much of a dancer."

"But, unfortunately, we live in a society where we are expected to make greedy, moral sanctimonious little pricks: the idea of anyone taking any notice of what I do is fauous."

Asked if he felt he could carry on as rector of Dundee University, Fry (above) said: "I really didn't want to sound like some moral prig. It gives moral leadership involves being dishonest eight months ago."

The pilot said he was happy to be the RAF's guinea pig, and Virgin has agreed to give him extra time off to fly with the RAF.

"I don't see that I'll have any major problems," said Mr Black.

He is married to wife Jane, 40, and has two children, Timothy, 10, and 12-year-old Hannah.



Virgin pilot takes part-time job in RAF Tornados

A 38-year-old Virgin airlines pilot is set to become the first part-timer to fly an RAF fighter for 40 years.

Ian Black, who lives Ripon, north Yorkshire, will spend his working hours ferrying holidaymakers to America and the Far East - and his days off practising intercepting Russian MiGs over the North Sea. The move is part of an RAF experiment to strengthen its air defences by using former RAF pilots as reserve flyers.

Mr Black spent 17 years as an RAF fighter pilot, including combat duties during the Gulf War and peace-keeping mission in Bosnia before joining Virgin eight months ago.

The pilot said he was happy to be the RAF's guinea pig, and Virgin has agreed to give him extra time off to fly with the RAF.

"I don't see that I'll have any major problems," said Mr Black.

He is married to wife Jane, 40, and has two children, Timothy, 10, and 12-year-old Hannah.

UPDATE

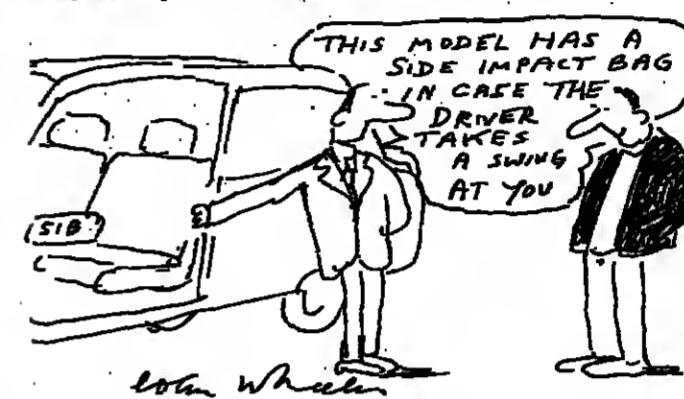
DRIVING

Hazard warning over travel tantrums

Road rage is flaring up inside cars as nearly two out of three drivers have rows with their passengers, says a survey published today.

The most common cause of in-car rage is getting lost and map-reading problems, the study from the Autoglass windscreen replacement firm found. Back-seat driving and unruly passengers are other big row factors.

Lost tempers and tantrums lead to erratic driving that could kill, a consultant psychologist warned. Scottish motorists are the most argumentative, with Georgie drivers proving the calmest. Nearly three in four motorists admit their driving suffers when they are having a row. "Minor quarrels can rapidly turn into raging arguments," said Conrad King, consultant psychologist and an expert in drivers' behaviour. "Having a tantrum when driving is dangerous. Tiredness is a major factor in these arguments and if you combine that with erratic driving caused by arguments, you have a lethal cocktail." The survey also found that 28 per cent of motoristsicker on holiday and 21 per cent on family days out.



LIFESTYLE

Young people turn away from drink

Increasing numbers of young people are choosing to become teetotal, according to new research. The number of 18- to 24-year-olds who never drink alcohol has risen from 7 per cent in 1980 to 11 per cent in 1996, according to the *Drink Pocket Book 1998*, published for the drinks industry. The number of "dry" 25- to 34-year-olds increased from 6 per cent to 13 per cent in the same period. But the report, by Oxfordshire based NTC publications, also showed that those who are still drinking are spending more than ever, partly because of the growth of "alcopops".

— Jojo Moyes

COMMUTING

Cut pollution - work at home

Getting employees to carry out their work from home or on the move could see drastic reductions in pollution and congestion, according to a report released yesterday. The study, completed by The Home Office Partnership, based in Cambridge, analysed the trips made by 2,367 County Council staff. It concluded that if teleworking were introduced the number of commuting miles travelled could be cut by up to 1.25 million miles a year, allowing for at least an extra 40,000 hours of working time in 12 months.

— Randeep Ramesh

Elizabeth Forsyth

In an article headlined "Partners in Crime" (City Plus, 2 July 1997) there were several references to Elizabeth Forsyth's imprisonment after allegations that she had laundered money for Asil Nadir in the wake of the Polly Peck collapse. We failed to make it clear that her conviction was quashed on appeal so that any implication that she had been a partner in crime with or had laundered any money for Asil Nadir would be wrong. We apologise to Elizabeth Forsyth for our error.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.17	Italy (lira)	2,761*
Austria (schillings)	19.80	Japan (yen)	195.43
Belgium (francs)	58.16	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.21	Netherlands (guilders)	3.17*
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11,440*
Denmark (krone)	10.80	Portugal (escudos)	285.61*
France (francs)	9.44	Spain (pesetas)	236,841*
Germany (marks)	2.83	Sweden (kroner)	12,221*
Greece (drachmai)	445.09	Switzerland (francs)	2.35
Hong Kong (\$)	12.29	Turkey (lira)	279,288*
Ireland (pounds)	1.07	United States (\$)	1.60*

Source: Thomas Cook

Rates for education purposes only

Police shop

An IRA unit planned to carry out a deviant May Day bombing campaign in London, a jury was told yesterday. Michael Bennett and others were in court to hear how the police and MI5 officers foiled the alleged plot.

An unarmoured vehicle was shot dead in a raid on a flat in south London after an informant operating against the unit that night.

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MINOLTA



The great seabird rescues: we shouldn't bother

Most guillemots rescued from oil slicks die within a month of their release. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, asks whether it is worth the trouble and expense of cleaning up seabirds after new research shows they have little chance of survival.

Rescued birds have little chance of survival, new research in the wake of last year's *Sea Empress* disaster warns.

The findings by the British Trust for Ornithology show that for every 100 guillemots released into the wild, 83 die in the first month of freedom even though the birds look healthy and vigorous. Of those 17 to survive, just

EXCLUSIVE

three are still alive at the end of the second month. And only one will make it to the end of a year.

Each year the RSPCA rescues an average of 2,000 oiled sea-birds along the British coastline.

The species most commonly found is the guillemot, a sturdy little auk which normally lives about 25 years provided it gets through the dangerous times of infancy and adolescence.

The RSPCA does more of this rescue work than any other organisation. The oiled birds are repeatedly cleaned with detergent to remove oil and fed a special diet to help purge any they have swallowed.

Gullemots are only released after they have spent several



Survival of the fittest: The RSPCA will continue rescuing birds despite evidence that the majority die

Photograph: George Phillips

days swimming in tanks inside enclosures. Techniques have been refined by vets and seabird experts and the total cost of rescue costs between £10 and £30 a bird.

The trust's research was commissioned by the Sea Em-

press Environmental Evaluation Committee a few months after the grounded supertanker shed most of its cargo along the Pembrokeshire coast last year.

The commission followed a scientific report from the United States which warned that the

survival rate of rescued guillemots was extremely low.

Scientists monitored the number of guillemots found dead and alive - along the British coastline with rings around their legs. The rings were placed on the birds earli-

er in their lives for research purposes.

All the birds rescued by the RSPCA carry these lightweight bands, which record when and where the bird was ringed. So to do many wild, healthy and un-oiled guillemots which are

ringed after their brief capture by ornithologists at their nesting sites.

When these ringed birds are caught for a second time - unless the rings are found on carcasses - they provide data on how long they have survived and

how far they moved. Few of the oiled guillemots which had been ringed were seen again. Of those which were, most were dead and half had died within a week of their release. On average, they had travelled only five miles from where they had been released into the sea. Of those still alive, most were unwell.

From these dismal returns, the scientists were able to make overall estimates of the survival rates of oiled and rescued guillemots.

They lived far shorter lives than the healthy, un-oiled guillemots ringed in the course of ordinary breeding studies.

Even though the rehabilitated birds might have appeared healthy on release, the oil could have poisoned them.

Perhaps their immune systems were harmed, leaving them vulnerable to infection. They could also be severely stressed by their time in captivity, or the experience of being released into unfamiliar surroundings.

Chris Wernham, a researcher at the trust, said: "It's very difficult to say why these birds do so badly." She said she hoped the findings would lead to further research into the causes.

Studies on oiled and rescued jacks penguins in South Africa have shown they have a much higher survival rate.

Arthur Lindley, head of the RSPCA's wildlife department, did not dispute the findings. "They're disappointing and come to us as something of a surprise," he said.

Although the society had not yet considered them, he thought it highly unlikely it would give up rescuing oiled birds, or kill them humanely on the beach when there was a chance of recovery.

"When we find them they are in extremis, in need of care which we can give them," he said.

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

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THE EYE

Maggie Smith's return to the West End in A Delicate Balance

FEATURES

Virginia Ironside: When you know you're in pain and your friends all think you're faking

Police shot unarmed IRA suspect 'in raid to foil bomb plot'

An IRA unit planned to carry out a devastating car bombing campaign in London, a jury was told yesterday. Jason Bennetto and Amanda Kelly were in court to hear how the police and MI5 officers foiled the alleged plot.

An unarmed IRA suspect was shot dead by a police marksman after an intensive surveillance operation against a terrorist unit that intended to cause

death and destruction, an Old Bailey jury was told.

Diarmuid O'Neill, 27, was gunned down at a hotel in west London where three IRA suspects were staying. CS gas fired into their rooms blinded not only the suspects but police officers as well, the court was told.

The raid ended six weeks of intensive covert surveillance last summer of five IRA suspects by Metropolitan Police and MI5 officers. Listening bugs were planted in the suspects' cars and rooms; their electronic pagers and telephone calls - even from public telephone boxes - were monitored, and film from mobile video recorders and surveillance cameras in train stations was taken.

During the raid last September the police had hoped to use a card key to break into the hotel room, but the plan went wrong.

O'Neill was shot in the darkened hotel room when he failed to respond to a police officer, only known in the court as "Kilo", who shouted "show me your hands you c***".

David Waters, prosecuting, said: "All Kilo could see was a figure kneeling towards him. He thought he was going to be shot,

so he fired. He thought he had missed and fired more shots.

From the benefit of hindsight, he need not have fired, as no firearms were in the room."

But the officer may have been feeling apprehensive, perhaps terrified, as he was silhouetted in the light, said Mr Waters. He added that officers had been shown videos of guns the suspects had stored in another part of the capital.

Mr Waters warned the jury:

"However sad the loss of O'Neill's life is - and it is - whether Kilo panicked or not, do not let it deflect you from the main issue in this case."

After six weeks of surveillance, known as "Operation Timnitus", a decision was taken to move in and arrest suspected members of the IRA unit before innocent people might die, said the prosecution.

The police discovered an explosives "factory" at a lock-up unit in north London, which contained four bombs and equipment to make many more devices, including more than 100 bags of homemade explosive. All that was required to set the equipment off were detonators and timing units, according to the prosecution.

They also found three Kalashnikov rifles, two handguns and ammunition, the prosecution alleged.

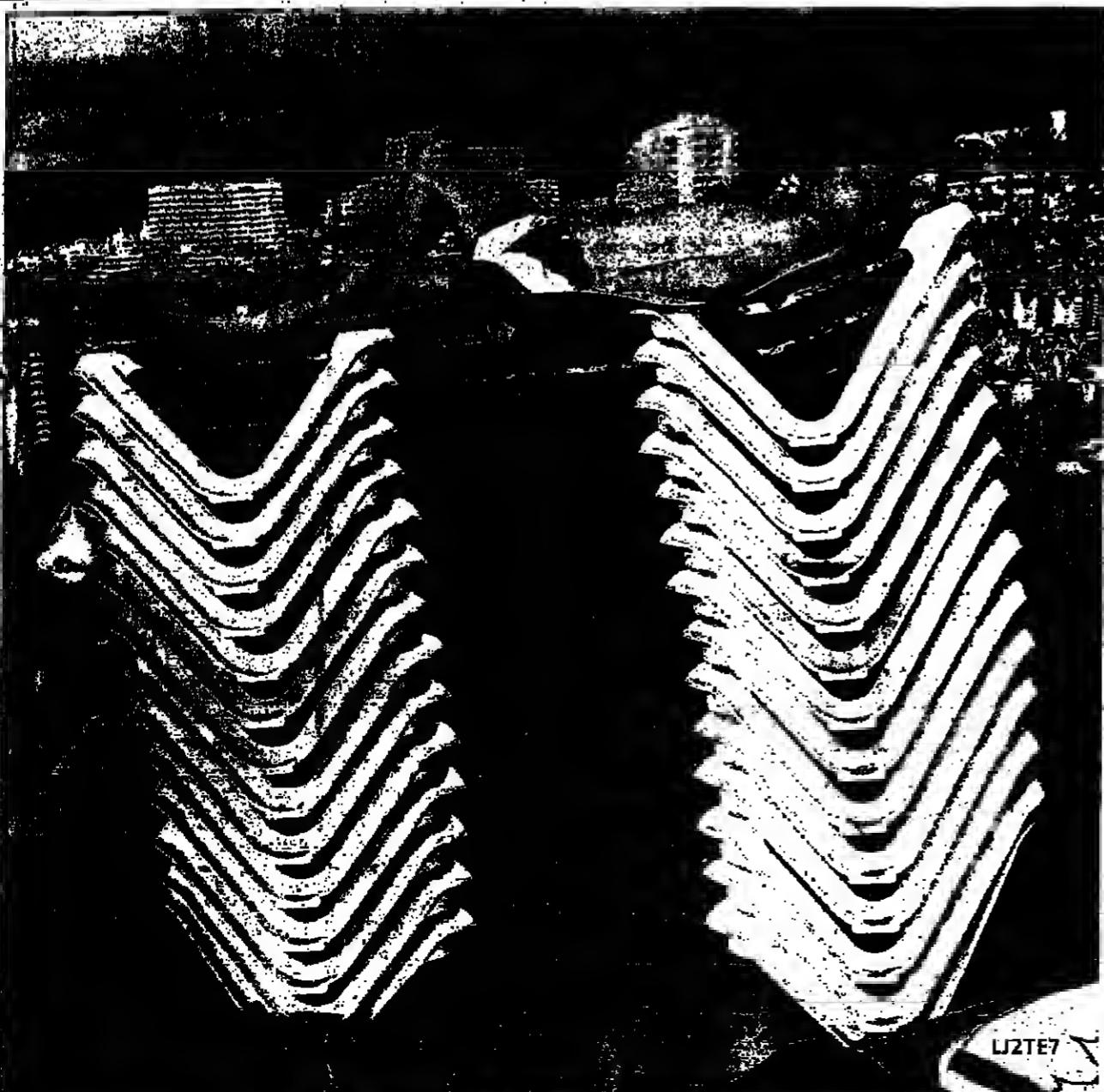
The five men were preparing for a "bombing campaign here in London", said Mr Waters. He added that the unit intended to plant bombs on lorries and leave them in unknown locations in London to be exploded by a delayed timer switch.

Co-ordinated raids were carried out on the suspects at 4.30am on 23 September last year. One was arrested at a house in Chelsea, south-west London, and another near Gatwick airport. Those two arrests went smoothly but the raid on the hotel room in the Premier West Hotel in Glenham Road, Hammersmith did not go to plan.

The suspected IRA men arrested were Patrick Kelly, 31, Brian McHugh, 31, considered by police as the unit commander, James Murphy, 26, a school groundsman, and Michael Phillips, 22, a mechanical aircraft engineer with British Airways at Gatwick.

All the men have denied charges of conspiring to cause explosions between 1 January and 24 September last year, and of possessing explosives.

The trial continues today.



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Dance to the music of time! The Audit Commission has condemned the 'vicious circle' which means money is spent on residential care instead of projects to keep pensioners in their own homes. Photograph: Katz

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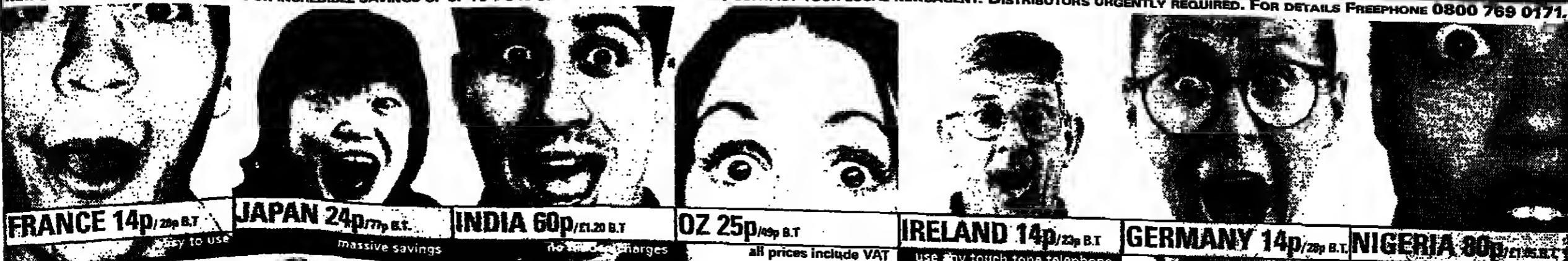
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Honda offers of fresh

A car whose emissions are lower than the city of London what Honda claims to have developed. London and Tokyo and Editor, peer through the motor company

A 'demographic timebomb' of elderly people has already exploded, the Audit Commission warns today. Caring for them will require a rethink of health policy and the Health Secretary is demanding 'modern care' for older Britons. What does she mean? Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, examines how hospitals and social-services departments are going to have to change.

The commission looks at this as a "vicious circle" which needs to be broken. Nearly two-thirds of expenditure - some £2.6bn - is spent on residential and nursing care. This cuts the money for community-based services which help keep people in their own homes. So when there are accidents or problems at home, far too many old people are then rushed to acute hospital care - which is, very often, just where they should be.

A review of one city found

that nearly half of all admissions to hospital for old people aged over 75 could have been avoided. In these cases the patient needed lower level care or skilled 24-hour nursing - but not medical cover or even hospice or palliative care instead.

On the other hand, tilting the balance back towards home-based care - such as physiotherapy - can lead to startling results, it claims. In one case

study the commission looked at continuing care arrangements in two different areas. In Area A there were very long waiting lists. The health authority was spending three times the amount of money per elderly person than in Area B, where there were no blocked beds or waiting lists. Area B had chosen to focus more on continuing-care beds, more rehabilitation beds and had a readmission rate of 13 per cent compared with 20 per cent for Area A.

The most important way of bringing new efficiencies about is for the health and social services to work together closely, demolishing what the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson calls the "Berlin Wall" that separates them.

The Audit Commission criticises those which become involved in "turf wars" where they fail to agree responsibilities and deadlines, as it is older people who become caught in the confusion.

One health authority was blaming their social-services departments for causing two-thirds of blocked beds because they were not getting people out

THE GREYING OF BRITAIN

There are 10 million pensioners at present in the United Kingdom - 18 per cent of the general population are over pensionable age.

Almost two-thirds of those over 75 are women, and over three-quarters aged 85 and more.

The number of people aged over 85 has nearly doubled since 1981 and will double again by the end of the next century.

In 1993 a man of 60 could expect to live for another 17.8 years and a woman 20 years.

The same year, 51 per cent of pensioner households depended on state pensions and benefits for at least three-quarters of their income.

Old people account for £20bn of spending in health and social services every year.

In 1994, 63 per cent of people aged 75 and over had a long-standing illness.

Nearly one in five people over 75 is admitted to hospital every year compared with one in eight fifteen years ago.

At the same time there has been a 38-per-cent fall in the number of NHS beds designated for older people since 1983. There has been a corresponding rise by 242 per cent in the independent sector.

quickly enough. When they examined the causes they found that in fact only 12 per cent could be laid at the social-services door, and the rest required a look at their own policies.

"The rising number of people, the changing roles, has never been debated or discussed as policy," said David Browning, associate director of health studies of the Audit Commission. "We have to build these services around elderly people. We should put them at the centre. We should look at the alternatives before just investing in hospitals. We're not saying it's as clear-cut as that but we do have to take a good hard look at what we are doing. We need to be rebalancing, tackling the vicious circle."

Mr Dobson today has written to health authorities and trusts telling them that the £300m extra given to the NHS to ease the winter pressure must be spent on "modern" care for the elderly. He said priorities must be increased staffing levels and extra opening hours to cope with medical emergencies during the winter months. But money should also be used to invest in more rehabilitation and recuperative services, home care and more specialist care in people's own homes.

An estimated 400 lives in Britain could be saved each year if women between the ages of 65 to 70 were screened automatically for breast cancer, a senior physician said yesterday.

Graham Sutton, of the Nuffield Institute for Health in Leeds, told a news conference that half of all breast cancers in Britain will occur in women over the age of 65. These are women who are not automatically invited to use the free screening services of the NHS, but who should be, he said.

Currently, women aged 65 and over can request screening but their request must be discussed with the family doctor, according to the Department of Health. In Britain breast cancer affects about 25,000 women each year and kills about 13,000. "For every one woman who will die from breast cancer at age 30, there are 10 who will die at age 50 and 20 who will die at age 70," he said.

Honda prototype offers a breath of fresh air

A car whose emissions are cleaner than the city air around it? That's what Honda claims to have developed. Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo and Charles Arthur, Science Editor, peer through the smog of motor company hype

The cities of south-east Asia have literally been under a cloud all summer, caused by forest fires and the exhausts of millions of vehicles. So when Honda said yesterday, at the opening of the Tokyo Motor Show, that Japanese ingenuity had invented a vehicle capable of cleaning the air which it draws in, people sat up and took notice.

The car is called the ZLEV (Zero-Emission Vehicle), and a prototype will be on display at the show. According to Honda's president, Nobuhiko Kawamoto, the level of pollutants generated by the engine is so low that in certain circumstances - say, a smog-struck city - the engine could improve the atmosphere. "Emissions from the tailpipe will be cleaner than the air going in the front end," he said. "The engine also represents a feasible approach, one we believe can be applied to Honda engines in future."

Miraculous? Actually, no. In December 1992 the Swedish car company Saab was able to cite independent research by the UK's Transport Research Laboratory on one of its models with a catalytic converter. The lab found that "driven twice for 20 minutes over a route through the City of London, the car's 2.3-litre turbocharged engine consistently emitted less hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides than found to be present in the air." In other words, a car that cleans the air.

In fact, in a smoggy urban environment, "by car with a functional catalytic converter will 'clean' the air. That does not mean though that the Honda ZLEV is totally a busted flush. Honda's claims are that the emissions per mile of various pollutants are well below even that of an electric ve-

hicle - but only once you take into account the pollution caused at the power station which generates the electricity that the electric car uses.

Honda measures this by the strict California "Ultra Low Emission Vehicle" standards, which aim to cut that state's terrible urban pollution. The ZLEV came in with a tenth of those emissions - managing 0.17 grams per mile of carbon monoxide and 0.02 grams per mile of nitrogen oxides. That is, by any measure, impressive. However, details of the engine are somewhat vague and no production date has been set. Honda scientists reckon it could be in production within two years.

The key to the car's low pollutant output is its use of not one, but two catalytic converters, controlled by a 32-bit microchip so that exhaust gases are turned as rapidly as possible into carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen. Pity that the first two are still greenhouse gases. The only real solution to pollution from cars would be to use them. But it is unlikely that Honda is going to be announcing that soon.

Contrary to its reputation, Japan has rather a good record on tackling pollution, and the terrible smogs presently afflicting Malaysia and Singapore have not been seen here for two decades. In the 1960s and 1970s, Tokyo was famous as the city where traffic policemen were administered oxygen after they came off duty, but a concerted effort by government and industry brought pollution levels down. This year, clean air is an especially fashionable topic. In December, the city of Kyoto will host "COP-3", the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and domestic car makers at the Tokyo Motor Show are playing the environmental card in a slow, but increasingly competitive market.

Honda also announced a "hybrid" car, similar to Toyota's Prius, which will use both a petrol engine and an electric motor, cutting carbon monoxide emissions by half. Mitsubishi and Nissan have both jumped on the bandwagon with plans for direct injection engines, intended to improve fuel efficiency and cut CO₂ emissions.

Can Mercedes ever take the crown from Rolls-Royce?



Battle for punters:
Mercedes' new
'concept car', (left)
which will be unveiled
today, is hoping to
corner the market in
top-of-the-range
luxury cars and their
champagne-quaffing
clients, which
has long been
held to be the
preserve of
Mercedes' arch rival
Rolls-Royce (above)

The luxury car market has long been considered the preserve of the aristocratic charms of Rolls-Royce Motors. But that may no longer be the case as German car maker Mercedes launches a limousine aimed at becoming the new king of the road.

Mercedes unveils its new "concept car" at the Tokyo motor show today. The luxury limousine will be badged as a Maybach, reviving a brand from the 1930s when Mercedes were considered a class apart from Rolls-Royce.

The new car will be far more powerful than any existing Mercedes model - using a

larger version of the 12-cylinder engine that powers the German motor manufacturer's flagship S600 Autocar.

The trade magazine, predicted that it could be powered by an 8 litre, V16 engine.

Mercedes has had considerable success in attracting well-heeled punters. It sold more than 2,000 of its most expensive S series cars last year - which cost about £100,000 each.

Duhhed the battle between "the spirit of Ecstasy" and "the three-pointed star", industry experts point out there is little love lost between the two companies - after Rolls-

Royce chose German motor makers BMW, a rival of Mercedes, to supply engines to its new models.

The challenge is a serious one. A basic Maybach would cost £125,000 - matching Rolls-Royce's cheapest models - and rises according to the customer's requirements.

Rolls-Royce remains sceptical of its rival's intentions. "This is not yet a production car," said a spokesman for the Crewe-based car maker.

"People do not realise that many of our customers can easily afford to buy both a Rolls-Royce and a Mercedes if they wish," he added.

Many Rolls-Royces - "Rollers" to punters and "Royces" to the industry - are also extended and this, claims a company spokesman, considerably increases the price tag. "£125,000 is a starting point. For a limousine a customer can easily pay £200,000."

Earlier this month, Rolls-Royce announced a 9 per cent rise in sales in the first nine months of this year - to 1,396 cars.

The most expensive marques have had to counter the rising popularity of the "super-saloons", such as the Lexus LS400 and the Cadillac

Seville. These retail for approximately £50,000 and have been snapped up by punters looking for a taste of the high-life.

Other car-makers are also preparing to enter this market. Volkswagen recently announced that it will build a V12-powered luxury car.

However, Mercedes officials are quietly confident of the potential of its new concept car. "There will be an announcement concerning the Super S saloon, but I am afraid we have no more information at this point," said a spokesman.

— Randeep Ramesh

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Professor Kevin Warwick out training with Roger (named after the runner Sir Roger Bannister), the world's first half-marathon robot, which has been developed at Reading University. Both will take part in the Great Sam Half Marathon in Bracknell, Berkshire, on Sunday

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

English teachers urged to promote British version

British, not American, English should be taught to those who learn English as a foreign language, the Government's chief adviser on the curriculum said yesterday.

At a Paris conference on teaching English in the European Union, Dr Nick Tate questioned the idea that one version of English was as valid as any other. In a world in which increasing numbers of people were learning English, it was important to establish the authority of British-English, he said.

There are around 370 million first language speakers of English, 370 million who speak it as a second language, for whom English is a lingua franca for some purposes within their own country and 700 million who speak English as a foreign language.

Though American English dominated television, software and the Internet, in many countries where English was a sec-

ond language its use derived from former links with Britain, Dr Tate, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, said.

"From the perspective of other member states of the European Union, the question of authority in English language use ought not to be difficult to resolve. The version with the greatest authority, British-English, is also the version which best equips young people to communicate with others."

There was no need for those teaching English as a foreign language to take into account different versions of British-English. "Learners of English as a foreign language need a version of the language that most people can understand. The language spoken by sub-groups within the UK or the USA does not provide this. Standard-British English does."

— Judith Judd, Education Editor

Westminster Tube station runs into serious delays

Members of Parliament could be the last to benefit from the multi-billion pound Jubilee Line Extension on the London Underground, it was revealed yesterday.

Work on the Westminster station, part of the extension and right next to the Houses of Parliament, might not be complete when the line opens next September. "We have some concern that we may not be able to complete Westminster station in time and it might be three to four months late," said London Underground managing director Denis Tumicoffe.

Mr Tumicoffe said it was "last-minute details like escalators that would need the extra time". The project is already six months late and its cost has risen from a £2.1bn estimate to £2.75bn.

London Transport chiefs also revealed that a hi-tech signalling system may not be ready for the opening and a back-up system was being prepared. Failure to get the signalling right would mean that the line, which links central London to Docklands, would not open until 1999.

• Peter Ford, chairman of London Underground, said Tube and bus fares were likely to rise by an average of about 4.3 per cent in January and that an announcement could be expected within the next four weeks. Passenger numbers have risen on the underground network by 6 per cent in the last year.

Despite this increase, Mr Ford said the Underground was still lobbying to get more money from the Government to deal with the £1.2bn maintenance backlog. Underground chiefs have also tried to persuade the Government to hand it money in three-year lump sums rather than annually in an attempt to avoid a sell-off.

— Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

Talcum warning for women

Women should not use talcum powder on their lower abdomen or around their genital region, a cancer specialist warned yesterday.

Dr David Oram, from St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, questioned the safety of talcum powder in light of research suggesting it can migrate to the ovaries.

Appearing on BBC1's *Face Value* programme last night he said: "Interest in linkage between talc and ovarian cancer was prompted some years ago by the finding of talc granules actually in ovarian cancer tumours themselves, and on close inspection talc granules can be found in up to 75 per cent of ovarian cancers. So yes, there might be a linkage."

Researchers at Yale University in the United States had interviewed 1,000 women and found that those with ovarian cancer were 42 per cent more likely to have applied talc.

Boy, 12, held over beating

A 12-year-old boy is among five people being questioned about the attempted murder of a man who was beaten with a baseball bat while trying to protect his disabled father, police said last night.

Three men, a 17-year-old youth and the youngster are being quizzed about the attack on Lee Holmes, 27, who remains in a coma at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, police said. The victim's fiancee, Lyn Garner, 25, and father Frederick, 64, were at his bedside last night. Police arrested five people following the attack on Monday in Low Hill, Wolverhampton.

Further group of Slovak gypsies arrives



A Czech family, recently arrived from Prague, outside their bed and breakfast hotel in Dover yesterday. Photograph: AP

A family of Slovakian gypsies has arrived at the Essex port of Harwich and applied for asylum. It is believed to be the first of the latest wave of arrivals to choose an entry point other than Kent.

Two adults and two children have been granted temporary residence while their claims are considered. Another family which also arrived in Harwich last week has been sent back to Eastern Europe.

However, a Home Office spokesman said they were not arriving in the same numbers as in Dover, where around 800 arrivals from the Czech and Slovak Republics have put local authority budgets under strain. Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, the Kent county council leader, and Mike Pitt, the council's chief executive, will meet Mike O'Brien, the Home Office minister, tomorrow to repeat calls for extra funding.

Thirty more gypsies arrived in Dover yesterday afternoon. Voluntary workers in Calais said 61 were sleeping rough at the French ferry terminals after being refused entry to Britain. Veronique Desenclos, a restaurateur, said three volunteers were taking the families food twice a day and medicine for two sick children.

— Louise Jury

Hard edge

Microsoft has been accused by the US Justice Department of using its commitment to weight to break our trust promises. But what's the editor, the software isn't being fought in court — it's happening on your desktop.

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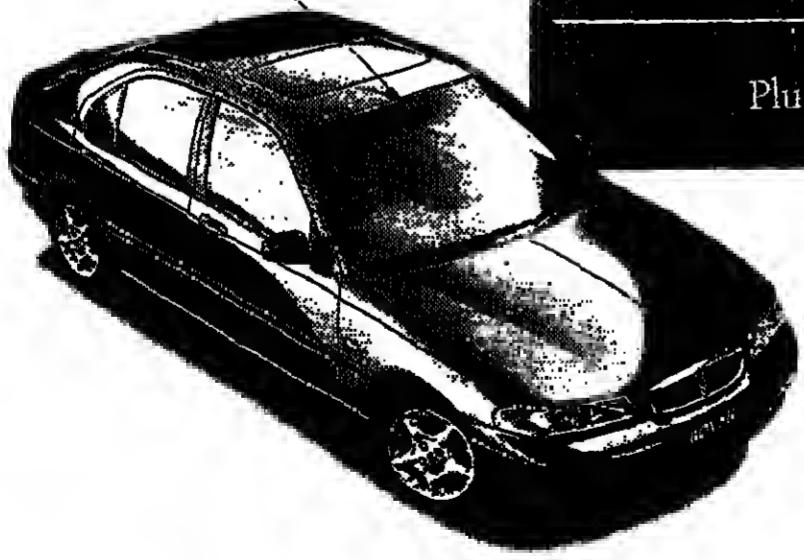
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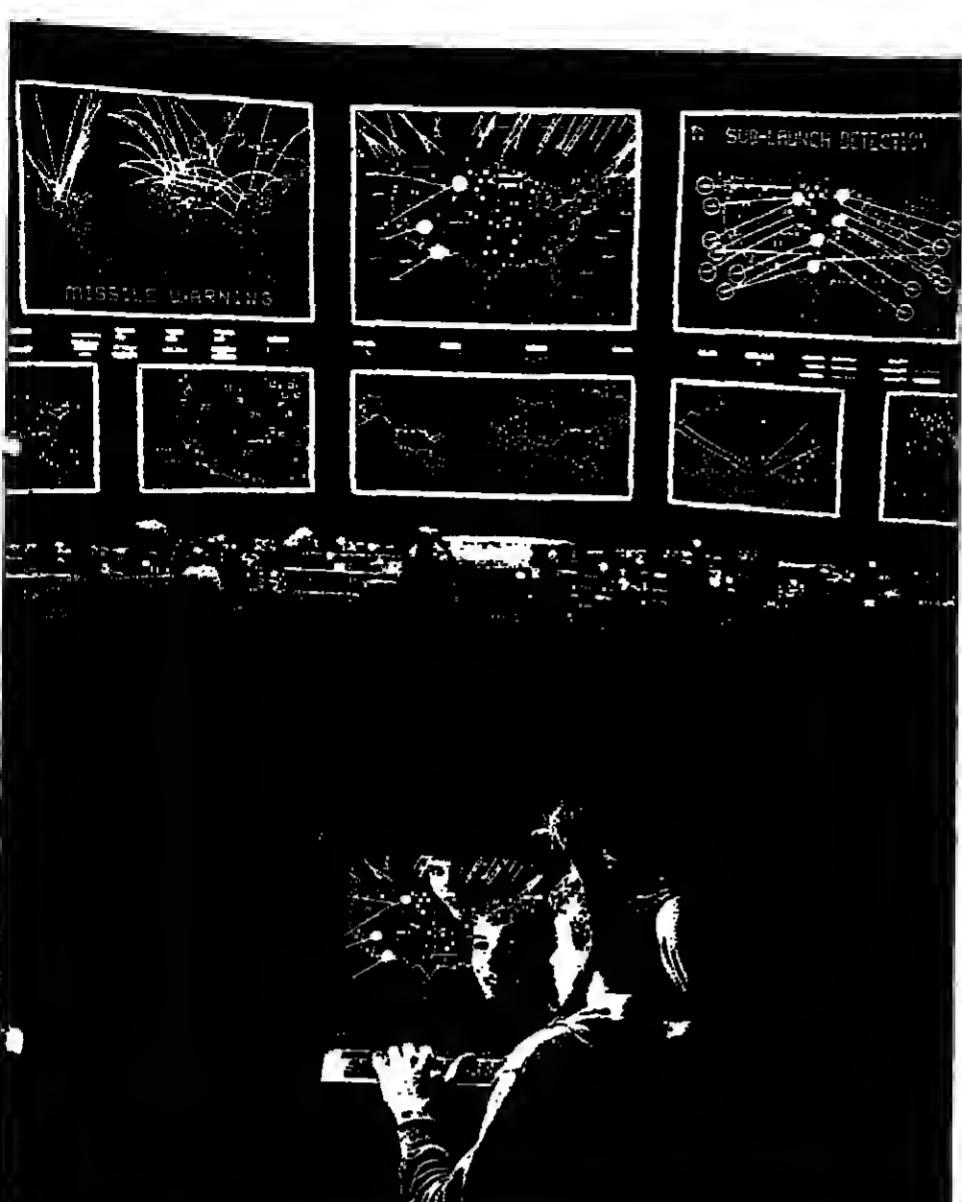
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7/TECHNOLOGY



Cybergeddon: The film *Wargames*, about a boy who hacks into the Pentagon

US lives in fear of keystroke killers

Forget about missiles, bombs and outlaw militias armed to the teeth. The United States faces another threat that is invisible, but potentially even more lethal. According to a report delivered to President Clinton this week, the most powerful state in the world could be laid low by the flick of a cyber-terrorist's switch. Mary Dejevsky considers the implications.

For obvious reasons, the report - the fruit of six months' work by a presidential commission chaired by a retired air-force general, Robert Marsh - is highly classified. Even the sketchy findings that have emerged, however, illustrate the size of the problem. "The knowledge is available," Gen Marsh says, "to do serious harm."

That could include a power black-out eliminating crucial hours of trading, and possibly months and years of records, on Wall Street. It could include redirecting computer-pro-

grammed military hardware, retargeting missiles, taking out military communications systems. It could include inducing flooding or drought by sabotaging water and sewage plants, disruption to urban power systems or air-traffic control, the diversion of all state revenue from the Internal Revenue Service. Now or in the future, all this - and more - could be done by just a few, even one individual, from a distance, and they would not even have to be in the United States.

For a country relatively free from terrorist attack inside its borders, news of this vulnerability comes as a shock. The more computerised, the more technologically sophisticated they become, they are being told, the more vulnerable they are to cyber-terrorism.

Some measures have been quietly introduced: security was increased at reservoirs this year after an unconfirmed threat to a major West Coast installation. There has also been discussion on protecting air-traffic control computers and the national emergency telephone number, 911, after hackers immobilised the system by flooding it with repeat calls.

Amid the Marsh commis-

sion's recommendations are a doubling of spending on combating computer terrorism (from the current £160m), the formation of an office to assess the potential threat to computer networks in public and private sectors, and enhanced co-operation between the private computer sector and government departments. Within the limits of what is unclassified, President Bill Clinton is expected to announce today the measures he will propose to Congress.

One of the commission's major recommendations is likely to run into difficulty. It is said to support a call by the head of the FBI, Louis Freeh, that the government impose strict regulation on encryption technology, specifically for reasons of national security.

This, however, is currently the subject of fierce dispute, with computer and software manufacturers arguing that regulation will stifle technological development and harm US exports.

Until this disagreement is resolved - and it is unlikely to be soon - the extent of government-private sector co-operation on combating cyber-terrorism is likely to be limited.

Hard edge that helps Microsoft stay one jump ahead

Microsoft has been accused by the US Justice Department of using its commercial weight to break anti-trust promises. But, says Charles Arthur, Science Editor, the software war isn't being fought in court - it's happening on your desktop.

"You have another browser already installed. Do you want to make Internet Explorer 4 your default browser?"

It's a gentle-sounding inquiry, which pops up on the computer screen if you get a copy of Microsoft's new Internet Web browser, usually referred to as "IE4".

But such a request is a common method of pushing out the opposition by making you forget it exists.

Once IE4 is your default, you are unlikely to go back to the rival product; as much as anything because, people have discovered through bitter experience, it's almost impossible to undo the changes which IE4 makes to the settings on your computer if you answer "yes" to its question.

Complaints to this effect litter the discussion groups on the Internet.

Who loses? The computer

user, who can be severely inconvenienced, and the rival software maker - almost always Netscape's Communicator, the Web browser from the comparative newcomer based in Mountain View, California.

Netscape has about 80 per cent of the market for browsers, even though Microsoft has used its financial might to offer the Internet Explorer range for free - giving the product away to get market share.

Netscape has cried foul repeatedly.

But the Microsoft juggernaut is increasingly able to use the breadth of its output - its operating systems, office products and Internet applications - to cross-subsidise new products and stay a jump ahead of rivals who want to outdo it in various market niches.

The Department of Justice wants to fine it \$1m per day, claiming that Microsoft is insisting that computer manufacturers must install IE4 on their machines if they put the Windows 95 operating system on it.

That would break promises made in 1995, when the justice department last took an intensive look at Bill Gates's company.

In a statement, Mr Gates said:

"It would be a great disservice to our customers if Microsoft did not enhance Windows with Internet-related

features, and rapidly distribute updated versions of Windows through PC manufacturers."

It's classic Gates - saying that he didn't want to, but the customers forced him to.

Anyway, from next year, those 1995 promises will be empty: Microsoft plans to launch a new package, "Windows '98" (probably with another name), which will incorporate IE4 in its code.

But Microsoft has never been one to give rivals an even break.

In the mid-1980s when Digital Research and Microsoft were offering rival Windows-like operating systems, any Microsoft word-processing or spreadsheet software run on a Digital Research system would

announce "Non-fatal error detected" - mystifying and worrying users.

The "error", it turned out, was not to use Microsoft's operating system.

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Straw calls Euro summit on football hooliganism

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has called Europe's police chiefs to a seminar on football hooliganism in an attempt to curb violence at next year's World Cup in France.

Just as memories of carnage at Heysel Stadium were starting to fade, along came the England/Italy game in Rome and English fans were once again synonymous with thuggery.

Criticism of the Italian police by Tony Banks, the sports minister, pleased aggrieved fans at home, but alarmed football and security chiefs abroad.

Mr Straw hopes that the call for European co-operation - an invitation to a seminar in his Blackburn constituency - will show foreign counterparts that he is committed to solving the problem.

The invitation came just 48 hours after Mr Straw announced the Government was considering changes in the law to prevent troublemakers travelling abroad. His advisers believe such a move will help the English bid to host the World Cup in 2006. The Blackburn summit, organised as part

of Britain's forthcoming presidency of the European Union, is also likely to include experts on hooliganism and crowd control, including academics and football officials.

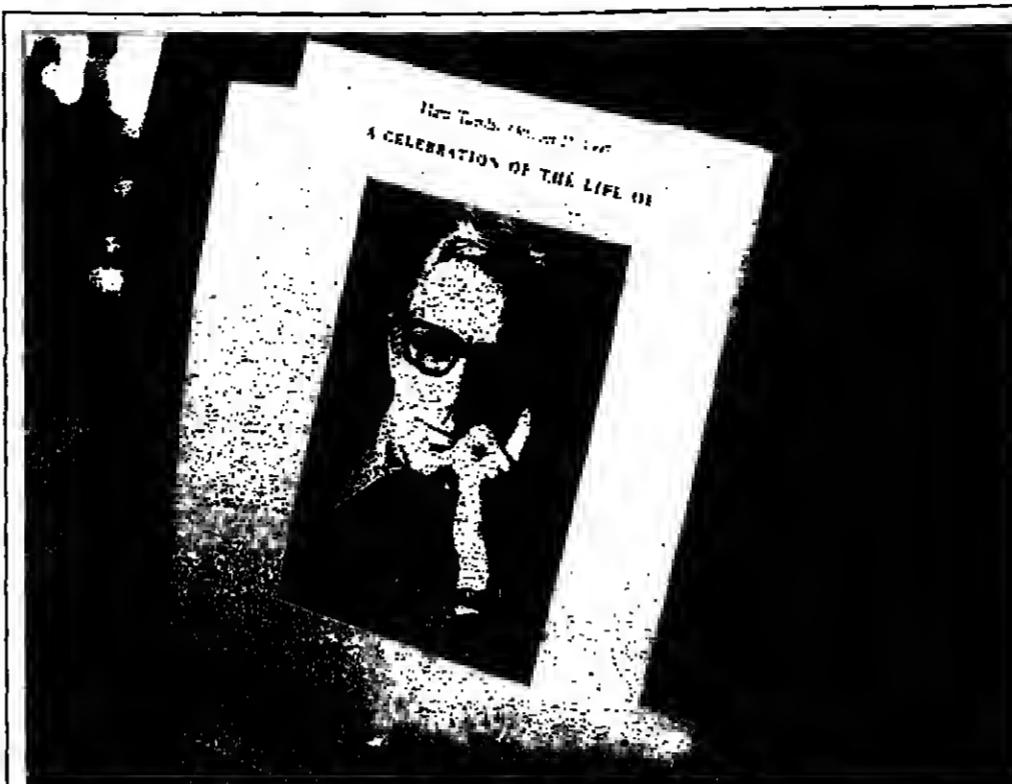
Mr Straw said: "The message has got to go out that we will do everything we can to undermine and disrupt the activities of those who have no interest in seeing football tournaments go ahead, but simply in committing violence."

"We will be offering every possible assistance to the French authorities and working closely on practical measures to ensure that the terrible scenes witnessed in Rome recently are not repeated."

The Home Secretary said that he was also considering legislation to stop a hardcore gang of thugs travelling to the World Cup finals in France next summer.

Mr Banks has previously stated that there is an urgent need to stop ringleaders travelling abroad. He has also questioned "so-called responsible" ticket agencies that sold English fans tickets from Italian sources. The matter is expected to be discussed.

- Kim Sengupta



Actor William Gaunt and poets P J Kavanagh and Brian Patten were among 200 people who paid tribute to writer Laurie Lee at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, yesterday. The author of the best-selling book *Cider With Rosie* died in May, aged 83. Photograph: Rui Xavier

BBC staff shop for archive material

A Kafkaesque quirk in the BBC's internal market means that despite the corporation having the world's largest musical archive, staff on radio news programmes find it cheaper to go out and buy CDs from HMV than borrow them from the in-house library.

The BBC claims that the reporters' figures are wrong, and that the cost of borrowing a music CD is only £7.50. Peter Cox, the head of the BBC's Information and Archives department, admits £7.50 is too high and claims a review of charges is being conducted so they can be reduced next year.

But the BBC also claims that charges were introduced to stop staff using its libraries so much. It says library use increased 23 per cent this year without an increase in programme output.

The letter is the second recent sign of unhappiness within Radio 4's news team at the BBC's management changes.

Last month, the radio network's star news readers signed a letter and senior editors threatened to resign in protest at plans to merge the management of their programmes under four super-editors who would work across television and radio.

Paul McConn
Media Correspondent

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'Candle' spins to world record

"Candle in the Wind '97", Elton John's tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, was yesterday declared the biggest-selling single in the world. The *Guinness Book of Records* said the charity record, a double A side with "Something in the Way You Look Tonight", had shipped 31.8 million copies around the world.

It meant it had overtaken "White Christmas", by Bing Crosby, the previous highest seller with an estimated 30 million sales worldwide. The difference was that the Crosby song's sales were achieved over the 55 years since it was released, while "Candle in the Wind" took 37 days to pass its total.

DAILY POEM

On My First Son

By Ben Jonson

Farewell, thou child of my right hand, and joy;
My sin was too much hope of thee, loved boy.
Seven years thou wert lent to me, and I thee pay,
Exacted by thy fate, on the just day.
Oh, could I lose all father now! For why
Will man lament the state he should envy?
To have so soon 'scaped world's and flesh's rage,
And, if no other misery, yet age?
Ben Jonson his best piece of poetry;
For whose sake, henceforth, all his vows be such,
As what he loves may never like too much.

This week's poems come from *Poets on Poets*, edited by Nick Rennison and Michael Schmidt (£9.95). In this 400-page anthology, produced by Carcanet Press in association with Westerstone's, almost 100 modern poets present work from poets of the past. Ben Jonson is introduced by Thom Gunn.

Why women are left holding the turkey at Christmas

The traditional features that make Christmas special are disappearing and it is being left to women to create a 'magical' time for their families, according to a report. Paul McCormick looks at the reality of the modern festive season.

In Betjeman's words, "oafish louts remember mum" at Christmas. In the Nineties they have more than ever to remember and be grateful for.

A report suggests that the traditional festive season has been replaced by a "lifestyle"

season where women are under pressure to re-create the magic through months of hard work.

Fifty per cent of women under 55 have children under 10 years old and have become the slaves of Christmas", according to research by advertising agency J Walter Thompson. The agency has found that while 80 per cent of men look on Christmas as "a good break" only 35 per cent of women agree with them.

"Men look at Christmas as an opportunity to put their feet up and let it come to them," says Oscar Nieboer, a director of JWT. "But women are the

slaves, and the drivers of Christmas. They are prepared to go to extreme lengths in terms of early planning, costs and stress to create magic for their children."

The research found that the women have to create the magic of Christmas themselves because the traditional markers of the season are losing their importance. In the Nineties only 70 per cent of us spend Christmas with our extended family compared with 90 per cent who did so in the Sixties.

Religion has lost its place and only 17 per cent of people go to church on Christmas Day and only 7 per cent believe it is still a religious festival.

And the Queen's address to the nation has also lost its importance, with only 39 per cent of the country watching her speech. Instead, JWT found that the costs of Christmas are outstripping inflation because people are spending more on luxury items so they can show off to family and friends during the holidays.

"The average cost of Christmas is now £440," says Mr Nieboer. "But it is going up because the costs of booze and luxury goods have gone up faster than inflation. Then there are the style factors. More people are buying real trees. And they are decorating them with few-

TEN REALITIES OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

- Whose birthday? Only 17 per cent of people go to church on Christmas Day. Only 7 per cent agree it is religious.
- Make that a 3lb turkey: Christmas is less family driven. Only 70 per cent spend it with extended family.
- Queen in your parlour: Only 39 per cent of people now watch the Queen's Speech.
- Christmas in November: November is the biggest month for advertising. More than £487m was spent in November last year.
- Seasonal suntan lotion: Most people think Christmas starts too early in the shops – 56 per cent want it pushed into December.
- Santa's overdraft: The average cost of the season is £440 – £234 on gifts, £32 on food and £74 on extras.
- Couch potato: A fifth of the country watches more than 10 hours of television on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
- St Nick is a Sassenach: 38 per cent of Scots think Christmas is a strain compared with 26 per cent in the South of England.
- Thanks dad: Only 35 per cent of women agree Christmas is a good break, while 79 per cent of men think that it is.
- Couch potato: A fifth of the country watches more than 10 hours of television on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



Shop early: Christmas was already in evidence at Brent Cross, north London, yesterday. Photograph: Philip Meech

Our guide to yule-tide survival

- Tell your family you are helping out in a soup kitchen. (This guarantees that they will feel too guilty to persuade you otherwise). Then spend your Christmas money on a stay at Champneys.
- If bludgeoned into cooking for the family, suggest that all members contribute one dish. With a big enough family, you will be left with only the Brussels sprouts, and after-dinner mints. (And with a bit of luck you'll get those under the tree).
- Alternatively, buy in all the food from Marks & Spencer. Ask relatives for M&S vouchers for Christmas and pay off the resulting overdraft by living on the proceeds.
- Book a round-the-world ticket and travel the wrong way through the time zones, thereby bypassing Christmas altogether.
- Tell your relatives that you are not giving or receiving presents this year and suggest they make an alternative donation to charity, preferably the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Watch as you are never asked to do Christmas again.
- Suggest that instead of television, this year you will spend Christmas Day singing Christmas carols, accompanied by your karaoke tapes of Cliff Richard and the St Winifred School Choir (ditto).
- Spread a rumour that Christmas may never again be mentioned in your presence, following that nasty episode with the stocking, the grotto and the Christmas candle.
- Opt out altogether. Spend the Christmas vacation in a hot, Muslim country. If it's good enough for Jemima Khan ...
- Alternatively, convert to Islam. Or Buddhism. Or Hinduism. Or Taoism. Oh come on, anything without the word Christ in front.
- Give all members of your family a tangerine and some nuts. Tell them you are rediscovering the true spirit of Christmas. Besides, it's the thought that counts.

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10/WORLD HEALTH

Future of Russia's youth goes up in smoke

Ravaged by ill health, Russia's population is falling at such speed that one senior official has compared the crisis to a war. Drink, economic decline and disease have taken their toll - but so have cigarettes. Despite this, international tobacco companies are using ever more ruthless techniques to turn young Russians into smokers. Phil Reeves reports from Moscow.

Life offers few pleasures for the pupils of School No 1041. The streets of the surrounding industrial zone are about as cheerful as the cold, black waters of the nearby Moscow River. Yet they have one boast, one privilege that sets them apart from their peers: they are allowed to smoke.

Not long ago, the school authorities gave up a losing struggle, and decided to allow them cigarettes so long as they had written permission from their parents. Having acquired that consent (which they say they usually forged), the kids were issued with a document confirming that they were on the "smokers' list".

Thus, they were able to light up during break without fear of punishment. Thus, too, was one small battle lost in the long war to prevent Russia's young from suffering the catastrophic fate of their parents. Russia's demographic crisis lopped around 450,000 from the total Russian population last year alone.

Scenes such as these horrify those officials and medical organisations who are

fighting to reverse a post-Soviet collapse in Russia's health, which has reduced the average life expectancy for a male to a mere 58. Cardiovascular disease is responsible for 1,343 deaths per 100,000 Russian men, compared with 704 in Britain and 330 in France.

Yet the country carries on puffing away, consuming 250 billion cigarettes a year. Surveys suggest that smoking among children is rife: one recently found that more than half of the 16- and 17-year-olds in Moscow's schools were smokers.

Such statistics have done nothing to deter the giant Western tobacco companies, who contribute some 170 billion cigarettes to Russia's annual ashtray. Harried by lawsuits and anti-smoking campaigns in the West, they have descended in force on the former Soviet Union to engage in a battle for business that is being waged with large amounts of cash and cunning.

Sensing a growing nationalist sentiment among Russians, R.J. Reynolds, the US giant, launched a hugely popular brand called "Pyotr I" - named after Tsar Peter the Great. Posters bearing the slogan "Strike Back" have appeared on billboards all over Moscow. This seems to be an appeal to the patriotic Russian consumer to fight back against Western imports, but the cigarettes - Yava Golds - are the work of a company controlled by British American Tobacco.

For the cigarette manufacturers, Russia is prime territory, a sprawling new frontier where there are few rules. They face little scrutiny by the media; social tolerance to smoking is high, and there is no strong, organised anti-smoking lobby. The tobacco industry has therefore been able to use brazen techniques in its quest for customers - especially in the more remote areas.



Get them young: Western tobacco firms are engaged in a battle for business among Russia's young people

Photograph: Nikolai Ignatiev/Network

This summer, the US tobacco giant, Philip Morris, sent a travelling disco to the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. It had professional dancers, a lavish sound, light and video system, and young staff clad, of course, in Marlboro insignia. In an otherwise grimy and dull city, with little entertainment for the young, the roadshow was a magnetic splash of colour, a dazzling missionary from the new world to the old. The Marlboro label was everywhere - on the tent, on the tables, on the walls.

"In order to get in you bad to produce five packs of Marlboros, three if you were

a student," said John Brier, an American anti-smoking activist who spent a month in the city, and videotaped the disco.

"You showed your packs at the gate. You couldn't say 'I don't smoke. Can I pay to get in?' You had to have the cigarettes. They advertised it consistently for a month. It was on the radio. There were flyers on light poles. Every night there were hundreds of people, sometimes a thousand on weekends."

Philip Morris protests its innocence. It claims that it is not trying to snare the young but to convert existing smokers to its brand; its hostesses are trained to check the

ID of anyone at the disco who appears to be under 18. The under-age were ejected, says the company. It takes such issues "very seriously"; it "does not want young people to smoke".

Mr Brier, a marketing consultant from Maine, disagrees. He says the show was clearly aimed at young people. "People don't start smoking after the age of 20 - only 1 per cent do. The only way is to get the young kids hooked. They have to get cigarettes in the hands of young people before they're old enough and smart enough to make an informed decision."

So far, the Russian government is doing little to protect the consumer. It has larger structural problems to deal with, such as a chaotic and incomplete legal system, massive tax evasion, official corruption and organised crime.

Hope resides abroad. The anti-smoking lobby in the US is pressuring Congress to allocate money from a proposed \$365bn settlement over tobacco litigation to protecting the foreign targets of US tobacco companies whom they accuse of recruiting young smokers in countries where legal restraints are not yet in place.

Americans eat themselves to death

If there were a list of "America's most hated", Michael Fumento's name would undoubtedly be on it this week. A trim, if stocky, thirty-something attached to a Washington think-tank, he has had the nerve to publish a book telling Americans to eat less. Mary Dejevskey went to meet him.

What is the biggest threat to public health in America? If you believed US television commercials and tracked recent legislation, you would probably say smoking, AIDS and breast cancer, in that order. But Michael Fumento, a former science journalist, says No. AIDS and breast cancer are way down the pecking order; smoking may kill 400,000 Americans a year - making it the biggest single killer at the moment. But it is fast being overtaken by obesity, which he calls the "most common chronic health problem in America".

To a European visiting almost anywhere in the United States, that might seem to be a simple statement of the obvious. The presence of so many people so glaringly overweight must surely cost insurance companies and the Exchequer huge amounts, not to speak of individuals' own suffering.

So it does, says Fumento. Obesity contributes to the grow-

ing incidence of heart disease, diabetes, probably also certain types of cancer, and to general ill health. But no one likes to say so. It offends too many people: the one-third of the population - probably half by the end of the century if his projections are correct - that tip the scales more than 20 per cent heavier than the recommended weight for their height.

Before Fumento's book, you could search the shelves of America's bookshops, which are stuffed with health and diet books, without finding a single volume addressing obesity as a health issue. It is not something either the former surgeon-general (the post is vacant) or the Health Secretary, Donna Shalala, has mentioned.

Fumento offers two explanations: first, obesity is so prevalent and America so insular that people have simply stopped noticing it. "It's off the radar," he says. He only noticed the problem himself when he went to Europe and wondered why so many people were so thin. Overweight in America is not overweight, it is normal.

His other explanation, how-

ever, is that as people have got fatter, fat has become a political issue. Increasingly, groups pressuring for the overweight are complaining about discrimination and calling for equal opportunities. "Fat is beautiful," they say, and compare their "disadvantaged" situation with that of ethnic minorities and women. They command vocal support from civil liberties groups and the political left.

Fumento blames the government and the food manufacturers for "low-fat faddism" - leading Americans to believe that they will stay or become slim by eating low-fat products. No one tells them, he says, that if they eat an excessive amount of anything, they will get fat.

Thanks to soft drinks, biscuits,

and snacks - all labelled low-fat, lite, fat-free, or increasingly, "guilt-free" - Americans consume an average of half a pound of sugar a day.

These damning facts, however - uncontested even in hostile reviews - have been drowned in the outrage unleashed by the author's very suggestion that Americans should, and could, make themselves thinner.

Michael Fumento, *The Fat of the Land*, Viking, New York, 1997. \$25.95.

Turn The Depths Of Despair Into Seas Of Hope....

More than 1000 whales will be brutally killed in the next 12 months.

This week, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), meets in Monaco to debate the future of the world's remaining whales.

Eleven years after the IWC agreed a moratorium on commercial whaling, Norway and Japan are 'bending the rules' to catch an ever-increasing number of whales.

Norway exempted itself from the moratorium and ignores the wishes of its neighbours in the European Union who stopped whaling long ago. Japan is defying the wishes of the nations of the world by catching whales for so-called "scientific" purposes in the Southern Ocean sanctuary.

On behalf of IFAW's 500,000 supporters in the UK we encourage the establishment of a Global Ocean Sanctuary to protect whales in all waters.

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11/IN THE COURTS

Defence team split over nanny giving evidence

Louise Woodward: The nanny is known to speak for herself

Photograph: Tesfaye Bazuayehu/AP

The trial of Louise Woodward is reaching a critical stage. There is no mistaking the mood of confidence on the defence bench, and David Usborne in Boston asks whether it needs to put the British nanny on the stand.

Divisions have arisen inside the defence camp over whether Louise Woodward, accused of murdering the baby in her care while working as a nanny in Boston, Massachusetts, should be brought to the stand to testify on her own behalf.

Barry Scheck, who has had a pivotal role as the lead for the defence on the medical issues in the case, is known to feel uncomfortable about a pledge made to the jury at the outset of the trial by his colleague, Andrew Good, to call Ms Woodward herself as a defence witness.

Sources close to the defence confirmed yesterday that Mr Scheck believes that the defence has scored enough points since opening its case last Friday to make bringing Ms Woodward to the stand unnecessary and indeed far too risky. Mr Good, however, has indicated that his promise to the jury will be honoured.

Alisa Gean, the head of neuro-radiology at San Francisco General Hospital, yesterday testified that the brain scans of the victim, Matthew Eappen, offered no evidence of either shaken baby syndrome or of a traumatic impact to his head on 4 February, as alleged by the prosecution. The testimony of both Dr Gean and an earlier medical witness, Jan Leestma, contradicted the core of the first-degree murder charge, namely that Ms Woodward assaulted Matthew with sufficient force on 4 February to cause his death five days later.

Dr Gean, who was paid \$650 (£406) an hour to testify, said under cross-examination that she first reached her conclu-

sions after a 15-minute assessment of the scans. What she saw then, she said, was "chronic sub-dural haematoma (blood clot) with evidence of acute re-bleeding". She also repeated her testimony that an event before 4 February caused the clot, which subsequently "oozed" and re-bled.

Ms Woodward is known to be eager to come forward to speak for herself and could even have the final say on whether she will do so. But she has been told to expect a ferocious grilling from the prosecution and that any cracking in her composure could damage her case. In cases where the charges are as grave as first-degree murder, it is unusual in the US for defendants to testify on their own behalf.

An indication of the shifting tactics of the defence has been the timing of testimony by Louise's mother, Susan Woodward. Originally scheduled to be the first witness for the defence last Friday, Mrs Woodward has since been waiting outside the courtroom as the focus has been trained on the medical evidence.

Pair charged with care home deaths

A nurse and a doctor have been charged with killing 22 elderly people at a nursing home in one of the world's largest cases of euthanasia-related deaths. Kim Sengupta examines the grim tale unfolding in Denmark.

The news of the mass killings in a Denmark nursing home has shocked the country and brought into grim focus the emotive issue of euthanasia.

The victims, 15 women and seven men aged 65 to 97, died after injection of a morphine-based drug allegedly administered by the nurse.

Detectives referred to the killings as "euthanasia", but did not offer evidence to show if those who had died had requested help from the pair. Both euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Denmark.

The nurse is charged with murder, and theft and embezzlement of £29,000 kroner (£58,240) from nursing home patients. The doctor was charged on Monday with breach of duty and negligent homicide. Neither has been named.

The manager of the nursing

home in Copenhagen declined to comment on the case, apart from saying he was shocked. Jan Brockhoff, a member of a local council which advises city authorities on matters concerning the elderly, said the investigation began in February.

"The family of a person who died there contacted the council about some of their but also because the death itself was unnatural," he said.

"We passed the information to the city officials and the investigation began shortly after."

Police said the killings took place at the state-run home between August 1994 and March this year. The nurse was sacked in March. The reason for her dismissal has not been disclosed.

In a tearful court appearance, the nurse denied the killings and said she had given the morphine-based medicine to patients on the orders of the doctor on most of the occasions. She admitted she had given injections to patients on her own initiative in one or two cases.

Police said the killings came to light during an investigation of fraud at the home. In the initial investigation, Copenhagen medical authorities noticed that there had been eight deaths in the nurse's department this year while only one person had died in similar departments.

The manager of the nursing

E.coli trial told of safety checks before party buffet

The host of an 18th birthday party told a court yesterday how he used himself as a guinea pig to save his guests from eating meat infected with the deadly *E.coli* bacterium.

William McFarlane sampled meat from John Barr's butcher's shop in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, after hearing reports that it had been linked to what turned out to be Scotland's worst food-poisoning outbreak in which 20 people died. After several hours he was fine, he told Hamilton Sheriff Court, and so the party went ahead.

Sampling the meat was only one of several measures taken by the McFarlane family to ensure that the meat for their daughter Lauren's party was

safe. The court was told that a family relation, David Moon, who bought the meat, rang Mr Barr and was told by the butcher that only corned beef and chopped ham were affected; he had bought ham, beef and turkey. Later, Fay McFarlane, Lauren's mother, received advice from the local hospital that the meat should be safe.

After the party many of the 106 guests fell ill, but none died. Mr Barr, 52, is charged with "culpably, wilfully and recklessly" supplying meat to Mr Moon on 23 November, despite being warned by health officials the day before not to sell any cooked meats. He denies the charge.

The hearing continues.

— Steve Boggan

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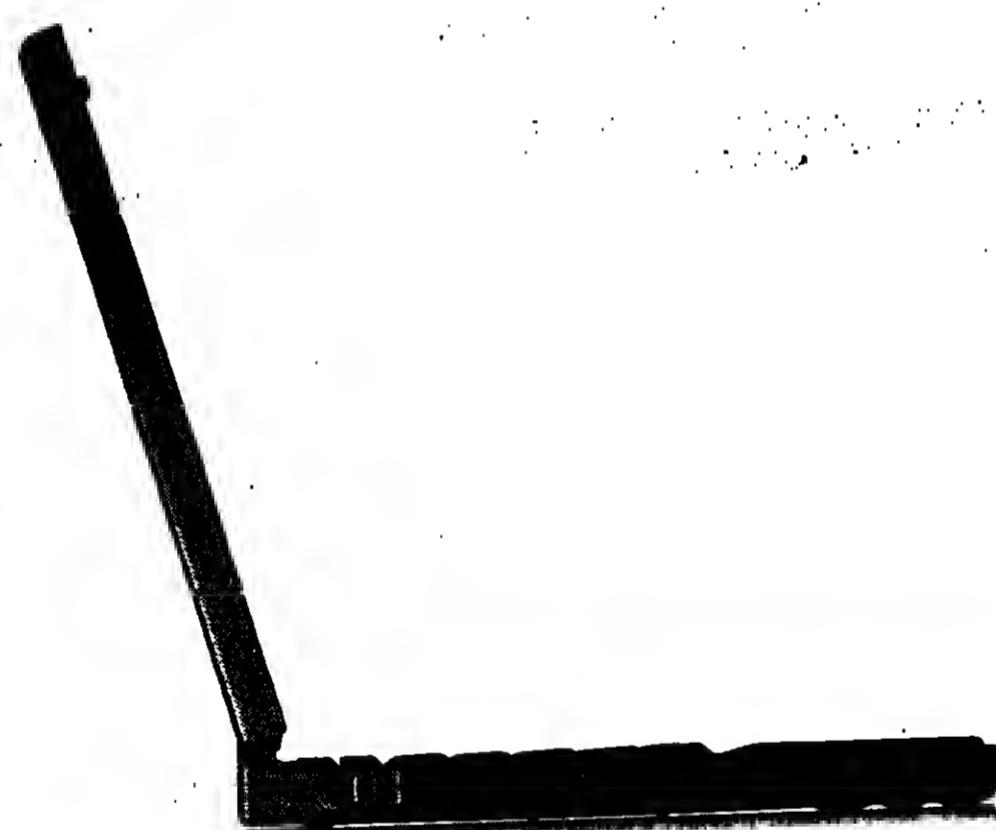
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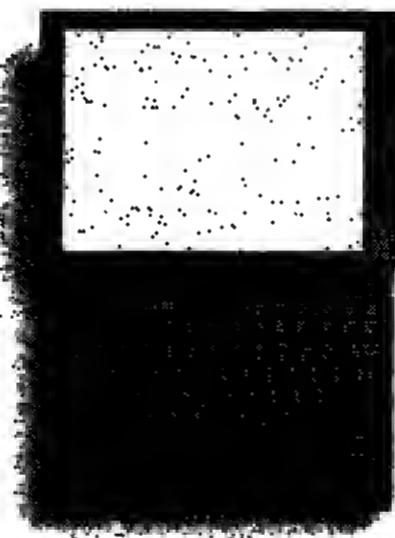


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MPs horrified by living conditions in Montserrat

MPs who visited Montserrat last week are preparing a hard-hitting report on the crisis. They told *Fran Abrams* that many islanders were still living in appalling conditions.

Both the British and Monserratian governments are likely to face criticism from a House of Commons inquiry into the handling of the aftermath of volcanic eruptions on the island. Members of the Select Committee on International Development who visited the island last week have returned angry and upset despite finding some improvements since August.

Sick, elderly and disabled people left living in primitive conditions on Montserrat would be left stranded if the island's volcano underwent another major eruption, one member of the committee said.

Jenny Tonge, Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, said she had been horrified to find 40 people, some of them disabled, they could do almost nothing for themselves, living in squalor in a church hall and sharing a single outside privy.

She said they would be almost impossible to bring to safety because with the air full of volcanic dust a helicopter would not be able to land. High winds also prevented boats from mooring at a temporary jetty in the north of the island.

At St Peter's Church one severely handicapped young woman was lying in a cot, screaming. Another woman was struggling to look after four children, including a three-month-old baby. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical adviser, has said babies should be taken off the island because of the dangers of silicosis, a lung disease which could be caused by volcanic dust.

Mrs Tonge, a hospital consultant before her election in May, said she had found the situation of some islanders "horrifying."

"They are British subjects, used to high standards of living. Whatever the political difficulties, they should be taken off the island in the next few days," she said.

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, said matters had improved slightly since he last visited in August, but were still "appalling".

Tory hopes rest on evolution of Eastbourne man



Making waves: William Hague with his MPs in Eastbourne yesterday where he said the party must change to combat Labour. Photograph: Tom Pilston

William Hague and around 150 Tory MPs yesterday held a bonding session at the seaside.

Coin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, found that the first lesson for Eastbourne Man, the new caring Conservative, is that size is not everything.

with the sort of sloppy sweater favoured by new age travellers but the rest of the shadow cabinet, such as Michael Howard, went for slacks and blazers.

Archie Norman, the former Asda boss led the modernisers with a casual but expensive crumpled linen jacket and slacks.

"The party is split between those who wear jackets and ties and those like me who wear sweaters," said Michael Fabricant, in a sweatshirt bearing his Lichfield constituency logo.

The scene of this sartorially ambivalent gathering, the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, might in time become as famous as the Selsdon Park Hotel, near Croydon. Ted Heath took the shadow cabinet there in January 1970 to rebuild the party around the themes that would be embraced by Margaret Thatcher: low taxation and low spending.

New Boy Howard Flight conceded defeat and turned up in his pinstriped suit. Mr Hague sported a tie and tweed jacket but later removed the tie when he got down to business.

Stephen Dorrell went over the top

William Hague yesterday began the task of modernising the Tory image in a two-day bonding session with nearly all of his MPs at the retirement resort.

Mr Hague hopes Eastbourne Man will be a different kind of Conservative; more caring and more in touch with the Britain which gave Labour a landslide.

But the creatures who stumbled consciously yesterday from the Grand Hotel were having difficulty shaking off their Eighties past. Bob Tyrell, chairman of the Henley Forecasting Centre which warned that Nineties man must change or die, told the MPs they had to catch up with the post-Diana era and "the feminisation of society".

Danny Finkelstein, the party's head of research, told the Tories in another of the closed sessions, that they needed to develop their "own clear purpose and mission" to win back power.

"We need to be able to respond to the way that society is changing, providing

an alternative to Labour as the party of economic modernisation and institutional stability, as opposed to institutional turmoil and economic protectionism."

Some of the grandees, including Michael Heseltine and John Major, had other pressing engagements. Nicholas Soames would have nothing to do with Eastbourne Man and stayed away "on a matter of principle".

The swots were soon evident, with Mr Howard shedding his jacket, intently taking down notes from a brief speech from the leader. Ken Clarke was on the back row with the rebels for the first day of school, but at least he did not play truant.

Mr Hague told them: "I want us to be the most experienced and effective parliamentarians this country has ever had. In time, we will turn Labour's greatest advantage, the size of their majority, into their greatest weakness."

The first lesson for Eastbourne Man is that size is not everything.

Labour MEPs face disciplinary action over PR protest

Four Labour MEPs have been told they face disciplinary action unless they accept a controversial code of conduct by 3pm today.

The four, Ken Coates from Nottingham, Hugh Kerr from Essex and Hertfordshire, Alex Falconer from Mid-Scotland and Michael Hindley from Lancashire South, were all sent warning letters yesterday by their group's chief whip, Simon Murphy.

All had been publicly critical of the code, imposed by the party's national executive after MEPs declined to adopt it. It bans them from objecting openly to the government's plans for proportional representation in European elections.

However, the fury of the party leadership was vented mainly on Mr Coates, who told James Naughtie on Radio 4's *Today* programme that he could not be forced to support Labour's May manifesto, which promised PR. He had been elected under the 1994 European manifesto, whose pledges of full employment and other measures had been "systematically violated" by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Afterwards he told *The Independent* that he did not expect to be disciplined. Mr Murphy's letter, which said he must promise to abide by the code or be disciplined, had been followed by one from Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, which said:

"There is no question of gagging MEPs."

The "gagging" code was in breach of European Parliament rules and he was appealing to the president to make a ruling on the matter, Mr Coates said. The national executive could not impose its code – accepted by MPs at Westminster – on them.

"We happen to be elected members of Parliament and they are not. That's their disadvantage in this affair," he said.

Wayne David, the Labour group leader in Europe, said he "totally disassociated" himself from Mr Coates' comments. He could be suspended from the whip.

Some of the MEPs object to the code itself, while others want to be free to state their objections to PR. Mr Coates is in favour of PR but believes the "list" system being proposed is unfair.

It will mean that instead of being selected to represent a constituency, a prospective MEP will have to win a place on a regional list drawn up by his or her national party.

— Fran Abrams

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15/ THE EMU DEBATE

Labour MEPs face disciplinary action over PR protest

Four Labour MEPs have been told they face disciplinary action unless they accept a two-tier code of conduct by 2pm today. The four, Ken Coates from Nottingham, Hugh Kerr from Essex and Hendon, and Alan Fletcher from Mid-Suffolk and Michael Hindley from Lancashire South, were given a warning letter yesterday by their party's chief whip, Simon Murphy, who had been publicly critical of the red-tape imposed in the party's national executive after MEPs declined to adopt it. It has now been rejected openly by the government's plans for proportional representation in European elections.

However, the fury of the party leaders was directed mainly at Mr Coates, who told *Times* Knight on Radio 4's *Role* programme that he could not be forced to support Labour's May manifesto, which promised PR. He had been elected under the 1994 European manifesto, which called for employment and other measures had been "systematically undermined" by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Afterwards he told *The Independent* he would expect to be disciplined. Mr Coates said he must choose either to abide by the code or be disciplined. He became a temporary one from Tom Sawyer & Garry - general secretary, which said: "There is no question of gagging MEPs." The "gagging" code was in breach of internal Parliament rules and he was seeking to go to the president to make a ruling on the matter, Mr Coates said. The move came after the 20 MEPs in its code - a majority of MEPs in Westminster - on the "We are part of a selected membership and they are not. That is the difference between the others," he said.

Mr Kerr, Mr Fletcher and Mr Hindley said they had been asked to support the code by Mr Coates, a spokesman for the party, who did not name him.

Mr Fletcher said: "It will be up to the members of the MEPs' council to decide what to do with the code." The code was agreed by the MEPs' council to be adopted by the party's executive committee at its meeting on 22 October.

Mr Fletcher said: "It is a simple matter of discipline. It is not about us being

disciplined, it is about us doing what we

Brussels spells out disadvantages of UK getting cold feet

Staying out of monetary union until after the next election will deny the UK a place in Europe's "economic government", EU officials warn. Katherine Burke in Brussels finds that even before he declares his intentions, Tony Blair's claims to leadership in Europe are being dismissed as "hot air".

"How can you lead from the sidelines?" is the question being asked as EU officials decode the muddled messages from London apparently ruling out until 2002 a definite commitment or timetable for joining monetary union.

Hopes had been raised that Britain was positioning itself for early second-wave membership. But since last month's meeting of finance ministers, the first after the summer recess, was there was a shift. The conviction that Labour was preparing to take Britain in soon after the launch of EMU in 1999 prompted informal moves to ease the path for Tony Blair, on prior membership of the ERM, for example.

To those counting on sterling to enhance the credibility and



French connection: Late joiners will miss out on the powerful 'Euro Council', a French idea designed to counter-balance the European Central Bank

Photograph: Brian Harris

equilibrium of the euro at the earliest opportunity, the latest developments are a setback.

But the price Britain may have to pay is also coming into focus. Exercising its ERM option in 1999 always meant it would forfeit a place on the governing council of the European Central Bank, which from spring will dictate monetary

policy for the "ins". It also meant Britain could not vote for members of the bank's executive board, responsible for day-to-day running of that monetary policy. It has been speculated that Britain might be allowed to negotiate a slot on the board for the time when it would join. Securing a place on the six-member board for a Bank of

England representative would have gone a long way towards compensating Britain for delayed entry in terms of influence. But without a clear timetable, why would other member states, all of which will be jockeying for places, make the concession, officials now ask?

But the most worrying threat will come from establishment of a "Euro Council", which will in effect form Europe's economic government.

Agreed in outline this month by the French and Germans, it will consist of finance ministers from the "in" countries who will meet "to co-ordinate" outside the normal monthly EU finance ministerial meetings.

Diplomatic sources in Brus-

sels say it is likely the council, a French idea aimed at countering the Central Bank with political influence, will "pre-cook" the outcome of economic policy decisions which ought in theory to be taken by Eurofin, where Britain is represented by the Chancellor. The Euro Council, reserved for the "in club", could become the

most powerful decision-making forum next to the biannual summits of heads of government. Gordon Brown will be relegated to a second or third division of players with the Greeks, Danes and Swedes.

For some EU sources, Britain's apparent cold feet about early EMU membership expose the limits of what Mr

Blair can deliver. While Labour has transformed the atmosphere in relations with the rest of the EU, Britain under Mr Blair will not, it seems, take the lead on the three biggest questions on the EU political agenda: common defence, common borders and common currency.

The Cabinet's dilemma on single currency is not incomprehensible to Britain's EU partners. There is complete understanding that swaying public opinion will take time and a referendum must be strategically timed. But there is doubt about the economic tests the Government insists must be met before it will recommend membership. Britain was last week deemed technically ready for membership, according to the Maastricht convergence criteria. The British and continental business cycles are out of step but this is not regarded as an insurmountable obstacle.

Officials say a hoped-for effect of bringing economic and monetary policies into convergence will in any case be to flatten the boom-and-bust cycle. Ireland, for example, is also experiencing high growth when recovery is only beginning in Europe. Yet, despite the risks, Dublin has made the commitment which, for now, Britain seems unable to make.

Business, page 23

Chancellor Kohl puts his faith in the City's clout

It's clarity's what Britons seek in the pound versus euro debate, look no further than Europe's older statesman. "Britain will join monetary union, because the City wants it," declared Chancellor Helmut Kohl a few weeks ago.

Whether five hours with Tony Blair had offered new enlightenment, the German leader would not say yesterday.

But his trip to Britain on "Brown Monday" must have left him with an enduring impression about the futility of messing with the markets.

Since the outbreak of the latest Euro-row in Britain, Germans have been watching the spectacle of a zig-zagging pound and yo-yoing stock indices with a growing sense of *déjà vu*.

The recent turbulence, financial as well as political, has rekindled memories of the contortions performed by the last

Tory government. Relations between the two countries are now no further than Europe's older statesman. "Britain will join monetary union, because the City wants it," declared Chancellor Helmut Kohl a few weeks ago.

On the personal level, there is a rapport between Chancellor Kohl and the Prime Minister, based on mutual respect, which simply did not exist in the past.

More importantly, Germany feels a great deal more secure about its ability to launch the euro on time than it did a few months ago.

Whatever London's position on membership, the guerrilla warfare waged by the Major government against the euro has been abandoned.

On Monday Chancellor Kohl received assurances from

adding that Britain must assume its responsibilities and avoid damaging the euro project.

El País in Spain warned that Mr Blair, who takes over the EU presidency in January, "risks becoming bogged down in a national debate" on EMU. *Expansion*, another Spanish daily, carried the headline "Blair's ambiguity weakens the euro project".

Whatever London's position on membership, the guerrilla warfare waged by the Major government against the euro has been abandoned.

On Monday Chancellor Kohl received assurances from

WHAT THE EUROPEAN PAPERS SAY

According to the press, European capitals have been calling for Britain to clarify its position on the single currency.

Suddeutsche Zeitung in Germany complained about the "vagueness" of Tony Blair's policy on monetary union. All the German papers yesterday reported the "shock" felt on financial markets following a weekend of "ambiguity".

For *La Tribune* in France the "crisis" represents Mr Blair's "first major *faux pas*". Paris wants to avoid being sucked into a mark zone dominated by Germany and wants Britain on board, said *Le Monde*.

"Tony Blair's honeymoon ends" said *Le Soir*, the Brussels daily. Britain's torment on monetary union has Shakespearean resonances, said the paper.

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US Catholic bishops plea for end to executions

There is likely to be an upsurge in the rate of executions in the US after court judgments this week affecting Texas and Florida. Mary Dejevsky and Phil Davison report.

Roman Catholic bishops in Texas, which has the biggest execution rate in the US by far, have signed a joint statement addressed to the state authorities calling for an end to the use of the death penalty.

All 21 of the state's Catholic bishops signed the statement, which accused the Texas authorities of "contributing to a climate of violence" by "usurping the sovereign dominion of God over human life". Over four pages, they argued that the death penalty should be replaced by life imprisonment without parole—the maximum punishment available in many states that do not have the death penalty.

The immediate reason for the bishops' appeal was a Supreme Court judgment pronounced on Monday, which upheld a Texas law prohibiting juries from being told that life imprisonment without parole, or with very limited parole, was an available option where capital offences were concerned. The Supreme Court found, with the appellant, that withholding this information was likely to push juries to favour a death penalty, but also found—by the narrowest (5-4) of majorities—that the state had the right to set the rules in such cases.

The wider background to the bishops' plea, however, is the exceptional number of executions carried out in Texas this year,

and the church's increasingly vocal opposition to the death penalty—as no less a violation of the sanctity of human life in their view than abortion. So far, a total of 30 people have been executed.

This is more than the total number of executions in all other states where the death penalty applies, five times more than in Virginia, the state with the next highest number of executions, and a record for any state since the Supreme Court allowed states to restore the death penalty in 1976.

Meanwhile, Florida's Supreme Court on Monday voted 4-3 to retain the electric chair, rejecting an appeal by its next scheduled victim, Leo Jones, convicted of the 1981 murder of a police officer, that the punishment was "cruel or unusual".

Jones's appeal was based partly on what happened to Pedro Medina in March. When Medina, a 39-year-old Cuban refugee, died in Florida's electric chair—widely known as Old Sparky—flames shot out from a foot in his leather face mask. He was, in the words of a Florida Supreme Court justice, "engulfed in smoke, flames, the odour of burning material and the stench of burning or roasting flesh".

But it wasn't "cruel or unusual punishment", according to the majority of the justice's colleagues. So "Old Sparky", 74-years-old, can be used again soon on the next in line of 377 prisoners on Florida's Death Row.

"In order for a punishment to constitute cruel or unusual punishment, it must involve torture or a lingering death, or the infliction of unnecessary and wanton pain," the court's ruling said.



A protester in Bangkok yesterday calls for the resignation of the Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Youngchayudh over his handling of South-east Asia's economic crisis

Photograph: Sakchai Lalit/AP

Russia and De Beers in gem deal

After months of haggling and uncertainty, Russia yesterday signed a trade agreement with De Beers, the South African gem giant which controls the world diamond market. Under the deal, Russia will sell at least \$550m of rough diamonds—about half its annual output—to De Beers this year and next.

The agreement marks a truce in a acrimonious wrangle in which the Russians were exporting gems to buyers outside De Beers' marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation. At its height, the South Africans threatened not to buy any Russian diamonds.

Their troubled relationship goes back to a secret deal struck in 1958 between the Soviet Union and South Africa, after huge deposits were discovered in Siberia in what is now the semi-autonomous republic of Sakha. While publicly railing against apartheid, Krushchev and subsequent Soviet leaders were happy to sell the gems to De Beers, allowing the South Africans to have the run of the world market.

After the end of the Soviet Union Russian uncut gems began to find their way to the outside world, skirting the terms of the De Beers contract. By 1995, such "culls" were worth more than \$1bn a year. At the end of the year, the contract lapsed. The South Africans and the Russians struck new outline deal but it broke down as the Russians, in a desperate search for hard currency, continued to sell diamonds outside the agreement.

— Phil Reeves, Ascoval

Native Americans press for whaling quota

The United States, one of the toughest critics of whaling, stirred controversy yesterday with a plea to let a tribe of native Americans kill grey whales.

The request, which is expected to come before the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting in Monaco today, has dismayed environmentalists and some allies who say the Makah tribe from the Washington state stopped whaling decades ago and should not be allowed to resume.

"This is subsistence hunting. It's part of a way of life that

holds this tribe together," said Will Martin, acting US commissioner to the IWC.

According to IWC estimates, about 21,000 grey whales live in the eastern Pacific, and the species was recently removed from the US list of endangered animals.

But environmental groups say the US request could set a worrying precedent and trigger an avalanche of new subsistence whaling requests encouraged by the whaling nations.

— Reuters

Japan set to sign mines ban

The Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, urged government ministers yesterday to get ready for Japan's signing of a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel landmines. Mr Hashimoto's action comes amid mounting international pressure to sign, including from the United States. Japan's military leaders have remained hesitant.

After meeting with heads of several ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, and the Defence Agency, Mr Hashimoto said "We will move to sign the treaty soon," a Foreign Ministry official said. Before the decision is finally endorsed by the cabinet, however, Japan will have to find alternatives to the use of landmines and study ways to comply with the agreement under the US-Japan bilateral security alliance, the ministry official said.

Angolans leave Brazzaville

Angolan troops who helped rebels take control of Congo started pulling heavy arms out of Brazzaville where United Nations and French missions arrived to assess humanitarian needs, witnesses said yesterday. France flew in a 38-strong team of medical personnel and firemen to help cope with the crisis.

Witnesses at Brazzaville's Maya Maya airport said that two Angolan military transport planes flew out after offloading fuel and loading rocket launchers and heavy trucks. It was unclear whether the planes were returning home or flying to other areas in Congo.

A drive by the authorities in Singapore to keep public lavatories clean and dry is meeting with overwhelming success, the Ministry of Environment said in a "toilet alert" yesterday.

The statement said that in the first week 5,000 Singaporeans have called the Clean Public Toilets hotline to identify Singapore's model toilets and to vote for their top five favourite toilets.

The ministry has launched a poster competition featuring three model lavatories and inviting the public to identify their locations, as well as to nominate their favourite public conveniences in five categories of locations. Prizes include a return trip to Hong Kong.

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The company has developed a range of products that are sustainable, ethical and fair trade. Sustainable is changing the way we think about fashion.

Russia and De Beers in gem deal

After months of haggling and uncertainty, Russia's diamond miners signed a trade agreement with De Beers, the South African gemstone giant, to end the world diamond price war. Under the deal, Russia will sell about 100,000 carats of rough diamonds – about half its annual output – to De Beers this year.

The agreement marks a truce in a long-running dispute in which the South Africans complained that the Russians were selling their gems to buyers outside De Beers' network. The Central Selling Organisation, which oversees the South African diamond industry, has been involved in a legal dispute with Russian diamond miners since 1988 between them and De Beers. It was publicly railing against the Russians' sales to the Chinese and subsequently to India, and was happy to sell them to De Beers, leaving the South African company to dominate the world market. But as the Soviet Union began to find their own diamonds, starting the terms of the dispute changed. By 1990 such sales had risen to more than \$1bn a year. In 1991, the contract lapsed. The South Africans and the Russians struck a deal, and ended up under a new deal, which is still in place. — Phil Reeves, London

for whaling quota

Japan and the US together will be allowed to hunt 1,200 minke whales in the IWC's Southern Ocean whale hunt. According to IWC estimates, the Japanese will receive 1,000 permits, while the US will receive 200. The Southern Pacific Whalers' Association, based in the US, has welcomed the decision, while environmental groups have condemned it. — Peter

ban 'Toilet alert' is flushed with success

JAPAN'S first ever toilet flushing system has been installed at the Japanese Embassy in Washington DC. The system, which costs \$10,000, is designed to flush away any waste from the toilet bowl. It is hoped that the system will help to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

In Italy, Superga pumps are the equivalent of Dunlop in the UK; they are worn by everyone, from schoolgirls to housewives. When, in 1995, the 86-year-old company employed Franco Bosio, the man responsible for getting Swatch watches on wrists from Tokyo to Tunbridge Wells, Superga became a label worth watching. When Bosio had the bright idea of employing the menswear genius Massimo Osti, the designer who created Stone Island (and now has his own stable of labels), Superga became an absolute must-have on the shopping lists of hip menswear stores up and down the country. If you own a Swatch, chances are that, before the year is out, you'll own a Superga too. Stores have already opened around Italy and are planned for Madrid, Paris and Hamburg, with one planned for London next year. Philippe Starck is working on a footwear collection for next summer, too.

Superga may be laying the foundations for major expansion into the next millennium, but if Massimo Osti's pessimistic view

It's a major for that wasn't the USA?"

800 111 210

IN22/10

of the future of our planet is anything to go by, we may not be around that long. Osti spends much of his time researching new high-tech fabrics, and has designed jackets for his own labels made out of Kevlar, a bullet-proof American military fabric, as well as Thermojoint, which is designed to withstand exposure to radiation. A single layer of Kevlar won't keep out stray bullets, but it will keep your knees grazed-free if you happen to be a keen skater. His high-tech fabric line, ST95, is on sale at Jones in Covent Garden, alongside the Superga range.

Carlos Williams, Jones's buyer, bought Superga for its fashion value rather than for function. "The anti-pollution masks are just an added extra, a bonus," he admits. "I haven't actually seen anyone walking around with the mask on." He doesn't subscribe to the idea of impending doomsday, and hasn't bought Osti's nuclear fallout coat.

Over at the London-based protective clothing label Vexed Generation, designers Adam and Joe are not pessimistic about the future of the environment, either. "It's the old awareness factor," says Joe. "Power through awareness." The two set up in business in the summer of 1994, a particularly bad summer for air pollution, with record admissions into hospitals for people with breathing difficulties. The aim of Vexed Generation is to educate people and make them aware of environmental and social issues, from petrol fumes to the ever-increasing intrusion of closed-circuit TV, through design. Waterproof fleece jackets have high collars with in-built air filters developed by 3M. Trousers are made of ballistic nylon, as used for men's trousers and gloves. Others have padded knees and are made of Kevlar, which is "strong as hell", Joe says. It also comes as brushed fleece, as used for policemen's uniforms.

"because you never see a policeman's uniform looking out of shape".

For those who are not so interested in making a statement against the current state of environmental affairs, the clothes at Vexed Generation are just the thing for people who spend time out of doors, including cyclists and bikers. And with built-in pollution protection, you won't even need to wear a mask as you battle through the fumes and traffic.

Like Massimo Osti, Vexed Generation spend much of their time developing their own fabrics. Not only do they visit fabric

Sustainable fashion – the renaissance of hemp

There are very few people in the fashion world on a mission to educate and make a difference. Most are content to leave that to politicians and activists. Nigel Glasgow, however, is banging his own drum, and it's made of hemp. Melanie Rickey reports.

Nigel Glasgow, Urban Poison, was one of the first to use industrial hemp after the Home

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Office granted a licence for growing the weed in 1993. He spent the two years following its reintroduction learning about its properties, and discovering new ways to manufacture it as a fabric. Glasgow's aim was to develop a fashion forward range beyond "brown rice" sensibilities. There are no "stooed again" T-shirts, hemp leaf prints or clothes made from what looks like a sackcloth material: Urban Poison clothes are modern/functional.

The streetwear designer Glasgow has found a unique way of raising awareness in what he describes as "looking behind the veneer" of fashion and making consciously produced clothes that don't look hippified, but urban.

His company, Urban Poison, was one of the first to use industrial hemp after the Home

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'Essex girl writes play' shock horror

The Royal Court's latest offering – Rebecca Pritchard's 'Fairgame' – has teenage actors enacting scenes of teenage rape. Cue the usual moral outrage. Who cares that when the author took a first draft into schools, she found the subject matter all too frighteningly familiar to today's young girls?

At the ripe old age of 25, gentle, softly spoken Rebecca Pritchard is steeling herself. Young she may be, but she's far from naive and fully aware that her Royal Court play, *Fairgame*, is likely to cause a stir in the more reactionary quarters of the press. When Sarah Kane's *Blasted* opened there two years ago, some critics foamed at the mouth at her vivid depiction of a dysfunctional relationship between a seedy tabloid journalist and a young woman and the atrocities of war. It turned into headline news and tabloid reporters besieged the theatre baying for blood.

So much for the peculiarly fashionable notion that theatre is dead. Ill-informed commentators seem to like nothing better than to offset their lack of knowledge of contemporary theatre by citing a golden age when plays really were central to cultural debate. Whatever happened, they cry, to the days when everyone was up in arms about Edward Bond's *Saved?* (That 1965 play featured a young Denis Waterman stoning a baby to death in a pram.) Or the time when Mary Whitehouse tried to take the director Michael Bogdanov to court over the bugger scene in *Howard Bren-*



A bad case of double standards: the brouhaha that greeted Sarah Kane's *Blasted* (left) dwarfed the usually tame response that greets standard Hollywood movie violence. 'Fairgame' (above), by Rebecca Pritchard (far left), uses teenage actors to portray teenage rape. Will she too fall prey to the same kind of sexist criticism for her play's depiction of violent rape?

Photographs: Tristram Kenton and Sarah Ainslee

BY DAVID BENEDICT

ton's *The Romans in Britain*? (That was at the National in 1980.) Such complainers certainly take no responsibility for the fact that serious arts criticism is an ever-decreasing priority in most newspapers that go for the easy option, ie cravenly following the hype generated by the PR industry.

In the face of all this, the *Blasted* brouhaha was a graphic illustration of the enduring power of live performance. It certainly dwarfed the relatively tame response to the everyday violence of Hollywood movies. Perhaps there is another underlying cause to the scandal. More recently, Out of Joint presented Mark Ravenhill's equally demanding *Shopping and Fucking*, which is currently on a world tour and returns to the West End in January. Despite its social criticism and its depiction of sex and violence, rarely an eyebrow was raised outside of the reviews. Was *Blasted* singled out for opprobrium because it was written by a woman? When men write about men behaving badly, they are praised for their self-lacerating insight.

When women do it, they are accused of in-eptitude or ball-breaking, the nearest term to describe the non-existent word for the opposite of misogyny.

So where does this leave Rebecca Pritchard, born and brought up in Essex, Britain's least favourite county? Essex girls aren't supposed to have brains, let alone be able to write plays. Their prevailing young white-trash image says more about the male control of culture than realistic demographics, but Pritchard is well on her way to providing an effective and highly theatrical counterblast.

In 1993, armed with a drama degree from Exeter University, she was leading drama workshops with young women and

single mothers when she saw an advertisement for young writers. The following year, the sharp-eared *Essex Girls*, her first play, became one of the hits of the Royal Court Young Writers' Festival. The first act, in which Diane, Kelly and Hayley yak away in the school toilets, is tightly structured, acutely observed (she has a brilliant ear for stripped-down dialogue) and hilariously funny. The second-act portrait of a single mother in a rundown council flat is cooler and bleaker. No one was more surprised than she was when it went down well in New York at a reading presented by New Dramatis. "I thought everything about it was very local; the sense of place is very strong. I thought that would be a barrier,

but the audience was laughing away."

Humour is very important to her writing. "If you open them up with humour, you can do anything," she laughs, wickedly, her eyes widening gleefully at the prospect. Understandably, there are far fewer laughs in *Fairgame*, but Pritchard's sense of humour frees her from the dangerous portentousness that could stifle so serious a subject matter as teenage rape. Unusually, it is based on another play, *Games in the Backyard*, by the Israeli writer Edna Mazy.

"What I really liked about Edna's play was that you could so easily recognise the behaviour. Using theatre to face up to anxieties or dark sides of our own lives is very

important. I liked the way she's prepared to do that. I also thought the fact that, in her play, the girl who is raped is Palestinian, while the boys are Jewish, makes it into a power relationship. That connection between rape and power, with the idea of the rape of culture – objectifying somebody not only as a woman but also culturally – was very interesting. The rape isn't purely sexual, the aggression is far wider than that."

Over successive drafts, Pritchard has relocated the play to London and removed Mazy's intercut scenes that deal with the trial of the rapists. She has replaced that element with the equally vexed question of family, building in a central relationship between a stepbrother and sister. "Outside Edna Mazy.

of the Israeli context, the concept of law doesn't mean the same thing, but one of the things that happens all the time with moral panics is the question of punishment. For me, it's more of a question of why are these people committing the rape in the first place? I wanted to explore the context and causes, economic, social..."

The downside to the confidence of her writing is the demands it makes of her casts. The Royal Court production is using actors aged between 14 and 16, which will further inflame those who seek to take issue with the play, but makes perfect dramatic sense. Having worked extensively with her director Roxana Silbert in the past, she's confident, but wary. Relatively inexperienced actors have vitality and spontaneity but the difficulty for any production is whether teenagers can construct fully developed performances that deliver the crucial character history and subtext. "The specific dynamics on stage are about power and manipulation and control. Because the characters have no control over their own lives, they are constantly controlling one another."

That's certainly true, but Pritchard doesn't make it easy for them. There is barely a speech in the play longer than one line. Nor does she ever editorialise. There is no character who lets the audience off the hook by explaining the moral position, something a weaker writer would do.

She welcomes the opportunity to explore a highly emotive topic in a way that would be more distanced on film. "You can confront an audience in a more directly challenging way. The events are so near, it has more of an impact. As witnesses to it, you feel much more responsible."

Taking the first draft into schools was frightening: teachers stopped them using certain girls to play the central character because it was felt the part was too close to their experience. "We found that a lot of them knew someone who had been raped. Many of them spoke about it with a lot of familiarity. I think the cases we read about in the press are the tip of the iceberg."

Although, on the face of it, *Fairgame* has little in common with either *Blasted* or Phyllis Nagy's *The Strip*, Pritchard found inspiration in both plays. "Neither of these women felt tied to writing about the female experience: they felt they could just write about the world. They were making connections between very intimate, personal perspectives and a wider political reality. They're challenging an audience to deconstruct the values of their society as represented on stage, rather than merely asking them to empathise."

In the calmest possible way, she confides that she detests spoon-feeding. "You have to respect the intelligence of your audience. Telling us what we should think is really patronising and unnecessary. It feeds into the whole moral panic argument. Ironically, it makes children of us." Which is positively the last thing you want in a play about the tensions of adolescence.

'Fairgame' is at the Royal Court at the Duke of York's, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) on 24-25, 29-31 Oct and 1 Nov

Big man with a big appetite for the big time

Over the years, the reviewers have extracted more than their fair pound of flesh from Desmond Barrit's beefy performances. Time then, perhaps, says Dominic Cavendish, for them to eat a little humble pie

Desmond Barrit is rarely surprised by the reviews he receives. He cannot recall a single one, he says, that has not referred in some way to his girth. To misquote the belittled Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, it is "nothing but fat and hulky", as though the criti-

cies were vying with Roger's *The Sun* to create phrases that do full, jumbo-sized justice to his palpable stage presence. This 53-year-old Welshman can run them off in a mellifluous alliterative stream: "I've been compared to an enormous cream, a barrage balloon in a breeze, a big humble-bee, a ball full of blubber. In a magazine once, they even wrote 'Name: Desmond Barrit. Occupation: 22-stone actor.'

If ever a performer was in danger of being judged solely on his appearance, this is he. What new epithets will they find tonight, one wonders, when Barrit opens in a Greenwich revival of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*, playing the



Not so much a case of a comic playing Hamlet, more a case of a fine actor expanding his range: Desmond Barrit limbers up for 'A View from the Bridge'. Photo: Tristram Kenton

whose life collapses in a pool of over-possessiveness, envy and betrayal. *A View from the Bridge* is hardly a laugh a minute, though Eddie is not beyond the odd wisecrack at the beginning. Barrit, who has been known to play his audiences with more cheek than Frankie Howerd, remains unimimidated by the intensity. His mid-range straight roles earlier in his career, most notably Gloucester in *King Lear*, taught him the truth in the adage that comedy is harder to master than tragedy. "In comedy, there is an optimum way of delivering a line. Once you've reached that optimum level, you have to repeat it every night in such a way as to make it sound completely fresh. With tragedy, you can feel a response there and then, it's far less technical."

And he won popular affection for his definitively insufferable Toad in the National's *The Wind in the Willows*. Pretty good going for someone who quit accountancy at the age of 35 to go into acting after a wager with a friend at a party. But there is still something left to prove: not that, inside Desmond Barrit, there is a serious actor struggling to get out, but that Barrit is, generally, a great all-round performer.

The portrait of a middle-aged Brooklyn longshoreman

modes, insisting that they are "right next to each other – life is neither all tragic or all comic and whether you are playing tragedy or comedy, the thing is to play it for real, then audiences will either cry or laugh."

It was Barrit's startling two-

timed combination in his RSC

Malvolio ("Michelin-sized

soups", "vast Toad", read the

reviews) that drew him to the

attention of upwardly-mobile

director Rachel Kavanaugh.

In his 18-year career, Barrit has never been out of work!

"If you've got a gimmick and you can cash in on it, why not?"

But it's the kind of

work that counts, and he wants

to be more Robbie Coltrane

than Paul (Hi-de-Hi) Shane.

Maybe this will be the week

he'll open a newspaper and get

his first fat-free notice.

Nevertheless he dislikes the

two

divisions

between the

two

modes

and the

two

types

of

play

and the

20/LEADER & LETTERS

Animal experiments pose difficult questions for everyone



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Long road to EMU

Sir: The Government has signalled that no EMU referendum will take place this side of the next general election, and in practice it will be 2004 at the earliest before the UK can join EMU. Even based on 2004 as a possible entry date, any "convergence" ploys (on sterling, gils or interest rates) are subject to considerable uncertainties.

The hurdles to be cleared before UK can join EMU in 2004 are as follows. EMU has to work, against the background of the massive economic disruption which could be caused by the computer millennium problem. Labour has to win the next election. Labour's five economic criteria for entry, in particular the necessity for the UK and other EMU economies to be in synchronisation, have to be met in time for a referendum in (say) 2002. A "yes" vote to EMU has to be achieved in a referendum; current opinion polls suggest a 3:1 majority against entry.

Even after a referendum had been won, UK businesses (which will have had little motivation to prepare for EMU in the meantime) would need 18 months to two years to get ready for EMU, indicating an earliest start date of 2004.

Two conclusions can be drawn. First, in terms of chronology, there is not a huge difference between Tony Blair's and William Hague's respective stances of 2004 plus and 2007 plus. Second, there is little reason for sterling to be trading at much below DM3. This is unhelpful to manufacturers, and also to the Government, whose ambitious programme must rely heavily on a thriving economy.

M C FITZPATRICK
Head of Economics
Chancery Lane
London WC1

Sir: Jonathan Youens (Letters, 16 October) alleges that Chrysler threatened to withdraw from the UK market if the UK did not join the single currency. It was not Chrysler who made this threat. It was another US manufacturer which issued the statement.

PETER RAWLINSON
Press and PR Director
Chrysler
Dover, Kent

Cosmetics researchers need an eye for an eye. Any mammalian eye will do – it's to test whether make-up irritates the human cornea. There are people who would, suitably rewarded, offer their own eyes. If that happened there would be an outcry; the companies concerned would suffer. But rabbits' suffering, regulated by official decree, provokes no sustained opposition – consumers have so far refused to use their market power to stop it. Pictures of their pain are different. Many objected to the image on our front page yesterday: not the kind of thing to look at over the cornflakes.

But live animal experimentation should not be a case of out of sight, out of mind, for two reasons. One is that some people – though not as many as the animal rightsists like to claim – object passionately to all animal experiments. For their sake extensive public debate and, if necessary, mobilisation of the majority view, are vital. The other is a more general reason, to do with living in a society dominated by

expertise. Too often in the modern world we ignore what goes on behind the laboratory door. The public's agent, says the Medical Research Council, pays for it. The public applauds when scientists announce some great breakthrough. But the public does not engage with the researchers, scrutinising and seeking to understand the necessity of their work. We do not often enough ask whether deploying the utilitarian argument – that painful means are justified by less (human) pain in the end – always suffices.

Most people are utilitarians. They take the pragmatic line that accepts experiments with living creatures – which, of course, includes genetic manipulation, as well as animal experiments for the sake of mascara. This justification is based, more or less, on a hierarchical picture of the living world in which *Homo sapiens* sits at the top of the tree and observes only his own constraints on what he does to the lower orders: eats them, cossets them,

conserves them, exterminates them. Man is acquisitive – for knowledge as much as for cowhide or frogs' legs, and the animal kingdom is a victim of that (in this context, at least; there are other ways in which animals benefit from our hunger for knowledge). Genetic research, the newest and most exciting frontier, proceeds at a furious pace. A sheep is cloned for the sake of better animal husbandry; a headless tadpole is created to help supply materials for human surgery; other research serves to conserve and propagate animal species. There is no easy arithmetic of cost and benefit here. We may long for general rules of procedure, but all we have are cases.

Short of rolling back the Enlightenment and all its works, the quest to know has to continue. The challenge is to regulate its speed and manage its consequences.

Obviously, there is a difference between manipulating genes, and operations that cause animals pain. Leave the arguments about "animal rights" aside; we do not even

need to use anthropomorphic words such as "suffering". It is surely enough to say that inflicting pain anywhere demands special consideration, for our own human sake as much as for the animals'. The progressive diminution of cruelty to animals is rightly seen as a mark of civilisation's progress. Today's practical and legal question is about the circumstances in which inflicting deliberate pain is allowed. Those circumstances change, so the Government should ensure that open consideration is given to animal welfare in general and animal experimentation specifically.

There is rarely a straightforward or linear relationship between laboratory work on animals and medical advances of human benefit. But where such a relationship can be argued, most people are willing to countenance the pain. The key word is "argued". The scientific community and the public need to be in constant and energetic conversation – a two-way flow of facts and valuations. We have to listen to

the researchers – people such as Colin Blakemore, who are articulate as well as original – and not just to the moral indignation of the animal rights fundamentalists. But the scientific community also has to listen to the public and attend to its changing value judgements on research and its products. Inflicting undue suffering on any creature reduces our humanity.

The Government ought to be embarrassed by our story this week – not just by its content, but by the impression Jack Straw gave yesterday that the Home Secretary is not altogether aware of what his own department is up to. He has a chance to come good, however, by demonstrating that he knows perceptions change and that policy needs to change with them. What looks like an acceptable number of experiments on animals one year may be excessive the next. That demands not just discussion in expert committees, but an open politics of animal pain. We all have to be mature enough to withstand it.

LETTERS



Persecuted Gypsies

Sir: As an immigration solicitor I was appalled by your headline "Gypsies invade Dover, hoping for a handout" (20 October).

The implication that Gypsies cannot be genuine refugees is unfounded. There are many recorded incidents of persecution of Gypsy populations throughout Eastern Europe. Lynch law and mob violence is often encouraged or tacitly supported by the local authorities. The growth of nationalist sentiment in many countries since the demise of the Communist regimes has resulted in the virtual ethnic cleansing of the Gypsy populations.

International law attempts to offer protection to those in this position. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees handbook on determining refugee status states that "where serious discriminatory or other offen-

sive acts are committed by the local populace they can be considered as persecution if they are knowingly tolerated by the authorities or if the authorities refuse, or prove unable, to offer effective protection".

People do not decide to leave a country their community has lived in for centuries lightly.

KATE BELL
Hammersmith and Fulham
Community Law Centre
London W6

Back to town

Sir: In his otherwise admirable letter (18 October) on house-building on green belt land, Trevor Roberts claims that an adequate amount of rural land must be allocated for housing in order to avoid dramatic rises in prices. But one way of encouraging development within urban areas is to allow the cost of rural land to rise so that market forces turn people's

attention to the towns. Although there is a need for new social housing in rural areas to prevent young adults being obliged to leave the place in which they were brought up, there is no reason why newcomers should not pay market prices. If this encourages them to think twice about moving into what remains of the countryside of South-east England it will, in turn, encourage house-builders to look again at "brownfield" sites; thus helping the Government to realise its policy of re-invigorating our cities.

HARLEY SHERLOCK
London EC1

Holocaust mourning

Sir: The Council of Christians and Jews strongly affirms the significance of Holocaust Day for the Jewish community and wholly rejects the view to the contrary expressed by Rabbi Jonathan Romain (report, 20 October).

The Holocaust is a central element of the modern Jewish experience, differing in magnitude and nature from even the greatest catastrophes that have occurred in its past. Its memory cannot be merged with the atrocities of hundreds of years ago. Rabbi Romain's proposal has already caused great hurt and consternation in the Jewish community and dismay among those Christians with a special concern for developing an understanding between our two faith communities. Today many Christians wish to stand in solidarity with the Jewish people on this day and the practice of holding special services of remembrance is growing.

Holocaust Day is especially significant for survivors and their families. It provides a focused time of mourning and remembrance for those who still grieve for loved ones. It is, moreover, of great educational importance for young people of all faiths, ensuring that the significance of the Shoah will not be forgotten in future generations and that the lessons learnt from this catastrophe of fifty years ago be applied to our understanding of contemporary attempts at genocide.

PAUL D MENDEL
Director
The Council of Christians and Jews
London WC1

Pesticide confusion

Sir: I was not totally surprised by the somewhat confused outcome of the court case of a farmhand made ill by exposure to organophosphate pesticides ("Chemical victim wins partial victory", 18 October). New evidence emerging almost daily relating to a variety of such chemicals makes it hard for even toxicologists and geneticists to keep abreast of the facts.

It would appear to be high

time for a major public conference to take place, to consider the handling of cases of serious personal injury, in particular those involving highly complex and politically sensitive chemical compounds.

The barrister Charles Pugh, writing in the *Journal of Personal Injury Litigation*, has proposed one valuable change in the law: to reverse the burden of proof: "Once the claimant has established that the disease or condition is consistent with exposure to a given chemical, and that the claimant was in a plausible exposure zone ... then there should be a rebuttable presumption of cause and effect in favour of the claimant."

It might also be useful to try such cases in the presence of a jury, which is not now the case. ELIZABETH SIGMUND
OP Information Network
Cullington,
Cornwall

Poor lawyers

Sir: Donald Macintyre in his article on conditional fees for lawyers (17 October), misses one point. It is impractical to expect a student from a normal background to go through university, bar school and pupillage and then face the prospect of working for nothing. A conditional fees scheme is likely to help to maintain the Bar as a preserve of those who can afford this expense.

KEITH VINCENT
London E8

When Wilde came out of jail, he left the coloured cloak behind



MILES
KINGTON

In 1975 Quentin Crisp wrote a book called *How To Have a Lifestyle*, which, if anyone had taken notice of it, would have left us with a world full of stylists instead of what we have at the moment, a world full of people following fashion, or merely trailing in its wake. Fashion is not style, as Mr Crisp never tired of saying: it is the opposite of style. People who have style are people who know who they are; fashion is for people who have no idea who they are.

Quentin Crisp's little handbook is illustrated by some drawings by Mr Crisp himself, which show that his contact with the art world was not limited to being a life model: he also taught himself how to draw. He did not, however, seem to have

been a very good teacher and the drawings are laboured and ineffective. It is a good thing for Mr Crisp that he could talk and write, for he would never have achieved fame for his drawings alone, and he has wisely dropped this activity from his repertoire in later years.

Indeed, he might have regretted it if he turned out to be a great draughtsman, for he repeatedly stressed in his book that if you are the kind of artist that makes things (paintings, sculptures, pots, statues) there is always a great danger that you may be eclipsed by the objects you scatter through the world. Henry Moore was, from the point of view of style, a failure, says Quentin Crisp, in the sense that everyone knows what

a Henry Moore sculpture looks like, but if Henry Moore himself strolled into a gallery, nobody would have the faintest idea who he was.

Moore is dead now, of course, but one might rephrase it in terms of Damien Hirst. Nowadays if you show people a shark swimming in a sea of formaldehyde, or a skinned rabbit nailed upside down to a piece of wood, they will immediately say: "Ah, a Damien Hirst!" Instead of saying as previous generations would, "Excuse my curiosity, but why have you put that shark in that formaldehyde?", If, however, we sat next to Damien Hirst on a bus, we would not suspect who he was, even if he smelled of formaldehyde.

Some artists we would recognise immediately because they have turned their image or their presence into their own style. David Hockney is instantly recognisable with his blend of Californian suntan and Yorkshire accent, and his pale exploding hairdo, looking for all the world like John Birley with a thousand volts going through him. Augustus John, in his lifetime, lived the life and the image of the Bohemian artist, and it may be that the image of his life is remembered more strongly than his paintings.

But the artist who is remembered more strongly for his lifestyle in this century than any other must be Salvador Dali. As his biographer Ian Gibson was explaining on Monday, on *Start The Week*, almost everything Dali did was designed to help manufacture his eye-catching act as an artist. Even his adoption of Catholicism was a ploy to help him get back in to Franco's Spain as a resident of his home country.

(This drew a wonderfully predictable squawk from Paul Johnson, Britain's most easily aroused Catholic, who happened to be in Melvyn Bragg's studio as well. Not only did Johnson spring to the defence of the Vatican but he attempted to squash Gibson by revealing that he, Johnson, had met Dali as long ago as the 1950s and that he, Dali, had told him that he had invented Surrealism by going personally to

New York in 1920 and doing something or other outrageous. Gibson was not impressed. He pointed out to Paul Johnson that in 1920 Dali was a 16-year-old schoolboy, that Surrealism had not yet been invented and that Dali did not get to New York till 1934. Paul Johnson, who has not yet decided whether he wants his lifestyle to be seen as that of a sober-serious historian or a scatter-brained, outrageously conservative polemicist, seemed to find this not worth answering.)

Actually, Ian Gibson summed it all up by saying that he thought the whole mask constructed by Salvador Dali was not initially a PR job, though it worked very well as that. Primarily, in his opinion,

Dali's facade was an attempt to cover up the perpetually adolescent self, the real Dali, of which he was ashamed. (Gibson's book is called *The Shameful Life of Salvador Dali*.) And this chimes in horribly and uncannily with what Crisp says about Oscar Wilde's fall and the way he came out of prison almost unrecognisable compared with the man who had gone in. Was he a broken man?

"As I see it, it was his style that was broken. It was never a part of him but rather it was a sequined band-aid covering a suppurating sore of self-hatred."

This master class in Never Quite Getting To The Point About Oscar Wilde will be continued tomorrow.

Private schools come in free

ONALD

Private schools must come in from the cold



DONALD
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CLASS AND
EDUCATION

"A special system of schools, reserved for children whose parents have larger bank accounts than their neighbours, exists in no other country on the same scale as in England. It is at once an educational monstrosity and a grave national misfortune." So RH Tawney in his 1931 classic "Equality." No doubt the old boy now seems too left wing for the times we live in. Yet two-thirds of a century and many, many, educational upheavals later, the objective truth which so upset Tawney hasn't got any less true. Ten days ago, the *Financial Times* published its annual league table of the top 1,000 schools, graded by A-level performance. For the first time, there was no state school at all in the top 70. Private schools took two-thirds of the top 500 places.

For a long time it hasn't been fashionable to talk about this massive discrepancy in academic standards, especially on the left. Indeed it was George Walden, a Tory MP, who broke the taboo when last year he exploded the myth that the private school system wasn't a legitimate issue of public policy because "only" 7 percent of parents sent their children there. Walden pointed out that that 7 percent included much of the managerial and policy making elite in the country, who thus cut themselves adrift from any personal interest in the state system: a socially excluding super-class. And he had a radical idea – which was to start luring the best of the independent schools back into the state sector by proposing they operated an open admissions policy without changing their ethos.

Under such a policy they would charge the state for taking any pupil who fulfilled their entry criteria, but whose parents couldn't afford the fees. This would cost a lot of money – a lot more than the rather flaky Assisted Places Scheme, rightly abandoned by the present government, under which taxpayers paid the fees for a limited number of parents often better off than themselves and who might have sent their children to a private school anyway. But Walden was convincing on how his solution would wipe out the class barriers that bedevil British society in way unfamiliar in meritocratic North America and Western Europe.

Anyone still doubting that those barriers exist, in Tawney's words, "a grave national misfortune" should turn to the recently published *A Class Act*, by Andrew Adonis and Stephen Pollard. A devastating chapter on education points out that the problem has been getting worse. In 1969, before the destruction of the grammar schools took effect, only 38 percent of places at Oxford went to privately educated children – compared to around 50 per cent now. This probably also ap-

ples to top civil servants. The generation of wartime and post-war civil servants celebrated in C P Snow's novels, who rose meritocratically to the top (and also furnished Britain with three bright grammar school prime ministers: Wilson, Heath and Thatcher), were more likely to be state educated than the present lot.

Which brings us to the main reason why the apartheid between private and public sectors has for so long been a taboo subject. There was always an uncomfortable contradiction at the heart of Labour education policy. The scrapping of most grammar schools from the mid-1960s was matched by studied inactivity on the subject of the flourishing private sector – all the more flourishing since the direct grant schools were driven out of the state system because they insisted on academic selection. Tony Crosland worried a lot about the private schools and the self-perpetuating oligarchy they fostered. But whereas he went a long way towards fulfilling his desire "to destroy every fucking grammar school in the country" he had no real solution for the private sector. And a long, embarrassed, silence, interrupted by sporadic hand wringing about the private schools, fell over the party.

This reticence may be slowly changing. Last weekend Margaret Hodge, the Blairite chairman of the Commons Education Select Committee, called for a "new relationship" between the public and private sectors; she suggested that, in return for the charitable status they enjoy, "they have a duty to give back to the community." David Blunkett has opened up a dialogue with the private sector. His White Paper talks constructively of the private sector sharing facilities with local state schools. And next month Stephen Byers, the schools minister, will announce a new body to consider how to implement some interesting ideas from Martin Stephen, the High Master of Manchester Grammar, such as allowing sixth formers to take specialist subjects or prepare for Oxbridge at independent schools, and possibly to train teachers of bright children in them too. This is more important than it looks: a Labour government would for the first time be handing over money to private schools to help with the education of non-fee paying pupils.

Will the experiment go further? Ms Hodge has been quite nice about Walden while saying that his ideas would cost too much. But it must be doubtful whether the apartheid – the Labour manifesto's own word – can be truly broken down without further voluntary re-integration.

The normal answer is to say that Labour will make state schools so good that private sector parents will come flooding back. But the private sector, particularly in the South East, now has a long reach. It is unlikely to waver away even when the hoped for improvements in comprehensives come to pass.

There may yet be a case for more radical solutions in Labour's second term. Integration – or, if you like, re-nationalisation – of the old direct grant, now independent, schools, would mean lifting some of the taboos about academic selection, though almost certainly not as early as eleven. But which would do more for poorer children? Widening the opportunities in some of the best schools in Britain? Or refusing to adapt comprehensification while keeping the state system cut off from a socially excluding private sector? Tawney, surely, wouldn't have had any doubts.

A defeat for spin, a victory for honest journalism – or is it?



SHEENA
McDONALD
THE ETHICS
OF REPORTING

Truth is the journalist's stock-in-trade, the BBC's eloquent young foreign correspondent Fergal Keane told the assembled greybeards at this year's Huw Weldon Memorial Lecture, broadcast this week. If it is not, he vowed, if he were ever compelled to forsake adherence to truth, he would quit and sweep the streets of London.

Reach for your broom, honey.

Oh sure – we like to think we get it right, and more or less apply our skills to pursuing that elusive ideal – although I do worry about Keane's insistence that his discipline is an art form, and that the tools of fiction are legitimate elements of the contemporary boot's kitbag. But if journalists are going to stake their livelihoods on peddling truth, the work-to-welfare queues will quickly lengthen.

I am not suggesting that we don't attempt enlightenment, or that we unwittingly mislead (although sometimes we do). And I cheerfully salute Keane as one of the gutter-dwellers (no affectation, this – life starts and ends in the terrestrial ooze) who follows his countryman's injunction and gazes at the stars. But the truth, the whole truth, probably is indeed the province of the fiction writer, rather than the journalist ...

out health warnings to the unsuspecting public.

And nowhere more do we do this than in the reporting of Westminster, the safe haven for the comfortably complicit, the lobby-lizard and the "salon-journalist", as Tito's press advisers called their tamed and de-clawed contacts in the media.

Or so it was – until this week. A fresh and slightly chilly breeze is blowing through the

streets and corridors of "the village", as the scribblers fondly term Westminster. In the wake of the Government's EMU debate comes the possibility of change: open, on-the-record briefings. The end of favours and favouritism; of "scops" in the form of classified information (which may or may not be true), vouchsafed to the "loyal"; of spinners' magic circles of "trusted" insiders.

All of this, of course, will make life harder for us. And I am not sure whether we've quite woken up to the implications of living in the light. And that, in part, is because we are temporarily beguiled by that sweetest of temptations – schadenfreude. There are many around the village who long to savor the delicious prospect of Charles "bullocks" Whelan getting his come-uppance.

But temptation exists to be resisted, and this temptation carries no promise. The Chancellor is no more likely to discard his press adviser than he is to cut off his hand. Mr Whelan may not be the hand Mr Brown uses to eat with, or proffers to strangers, but his function is as vital as these daily activities.

He is, of course, now enmeshed in the tangled webs of

his own weaving, having fallen for the dubious limelight of the small screen. His potency is reduced and compromised by the now general understanding of his dark arts (in this context, the fictive tools have been all too appropriate).

But he will remain on the payroll, because to dump him would be like having your pet poodle put down because your neighbour doesn't like his smell. The Chancellor may well have to learn to live without the special skills of his left-hand man, but he will not be seen to agree with those who for years have counselled him against relying on so effective an operator – any more than his neighbour will abandon The Project to make Peter a Labour love-object.

Nonetheless, the people of the dark are now in the spotlight, and we're all, politicians and journalists alike, faced with a genuine challenge.

Can we – the village dwellers – now advise the hubristic and superannuated spinners of yester-week to consider the lies?

If we can, we may yet aspire to Fergal Keane's mighty claim. Then again, we may find ourselves sweeping the streets even sooner.

At last: the corporations come clean



HAMISH
MCRAE
CLIMATE
CHANGE

In case you haven't noticed, there is a grand row a-brewing which will come to the boil at the UN's climate summit to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in December. This week is seeing some little preliminary bubbles of discontent in Bonn where representatives from around the world are meeting as part of the run-up to Kyoto, but expect much more to come.

The US finds itself in the dock both for not being prepared to agree on a commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and for being on course to break the last commitment, made at the Rio de Janeiro summit in 1992. Earlier this week the US disclosed that its greenhouse emissions had surged by 3.4 percent in the last year, rather than declining. The US points out that most European countries and Japan have also failed to meet their commitments too, the main exceptions being Britain and Germany, both of which have cut emissions as a by-product of other policies – ourselves because we switched a lot of power generation from coal to gas, the Germans because they shut down a lot of East Germany's most polluting industries.

Meanwhile developing countries, which currently produce much lower emissions per head but where the greatest growth is occurring, understandably dislike the idea of being lectured about their environmental policies by countries that contribute far more to global warming than do. It is, they would argue, yet another example of the prosperous West trying to pull the ladder up behind it.

I suppose that eventually the Kyoto summit will come up with some inadequate compromise to which everyone signs up and then ignores, just as they did in Rio. Does this mean that the world is condemned to a continuing rise in greenhouse emissions, with all the climatic change and the destruction to the environment that will follow? The two conventional weapons are pretty toothless, but maybe, just maybe, there is one potentially powerful one.

The two conventional weapons are the market and regulation. Even those of us who are convinced of the extraordinary power of the market would have to acknowledge that this is one it finds hard to fix. Non-oil commodity prices are half the level in real terms than they were a century ago. We have 45 years of oil supplies and are discovering it faster than we are using it – and more still of gas and coal. So the market cannot stop us burning fossil fuels.

Could taxation be used to boost the effectiveness of the market? Not much chance: Europeans growl at the way the US tax policy leaves gasoline at one-third of European prices, but Germany pays enormous subsidies to its coal mines and Britain this year cut its tax on domestic fuel. Even when they try to be better environmentalists, politicians find their hands tied. Intellectually there is a powerful case for international energy taxation, but if people become very good at getting round them.

The classic example of this

is car fuel consumption in the US. Instead of increasing the tax on gasoline, the manufacturers were compelled to produce more fuel-efficient car fleets. So they did, and the US manufacturers now produce lots of sub-compact cars that are designed to give very good fuel consumption. Trouble is, Americans don't like driving them, and if you have rented a sub-compact in the States recently

you will know why. Instead they drive around in pick-up trucks or sports utility vehicles, the largest of which make Range Rovers look tiny. Needless to say neither pick-up trucks nor sports utility vehicles have to meet the strict fuel efficiency standards of the car fleet. Americans have got their big cars back – expect that they don't call them cars.

I'm not saying here that the

world where governments are becoming less important, and companies, particularly multinationals, are becoming more so. Some people are worried by this, seeing it as a threat to democracy. I suppose it may be. But harnessed properly, corporate greenery could be the counterbalance to governmental impotence on the environment – even if those good corporate citizens have to be weaned from their sports utility vehicles first.

We seem to be moving to a

world where governments are becoming less important, and companies, particularly multinationals, are becoming more so. Some people are worried by this, seeing it as a threat to democracy. I suppose it may be. But harnessed properly, corporate greenery could be the counterbalance to governmental impotence on the environment – even if those good corporate citizens have to be weaned from their sports utility vehicles first.

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Prudential is 'named and shamed' by SIB over failure to act on pensions scandal

The City's leading regulator yesterday launched an assault on Prudential, the UK's largest insurance company, over serious failings in its efforts to clear up tens of thousands of cases of pension mis-selling. The Treasury said it was "extremely disappointed" with Prudential's conduct. Andrew Verity reports.

Prudential was subjected to one of the most damning statements ever issued by the leading City regulator, the Securities and Investments Board. It was accused of failing twice to meet deadlines for urgent cases of retired and even deceased customers owed upwards of £7,000 each because Prudential salesmen on large commissions mis-sold personal pensions.

The SIB identified "serious shortcomings" in Prudential's attitude to the review of mis-sold pensions. It had failed to approach it as a major project - despite having 60,000 cases needing urgent attention. Senior management had placed too much faith in reassurances from line managers. It also failed to exercise care in its handling of the review and departed from basic principles of accountability and responsibility embodied in the Financial Services Act.

The SIB statement said: "We are deeply concerned by the cumulative effects of the Prudential's failures in its pensions review. The timely completion of the pensions review is of paramount importance."

"The SIB and the public expect a regulated firm to be able to organise its own affairs so as to complete its personal pensions review within the publicly announced framework."

Prudential failed twice this year to meet deadlines for reviewing 90 per cent of those personal pensions which needed reviewing urgently - those who have retired, transferred to other schemes or died. It promised in March to finish the reviews by the end of June; but in May it asked the SIB to extend the deadline to the end of September.

On 20 August it said it could not meet that deadline either. The reason was that 8,000 policyholders had died or retired since the personal pensions scandal blew up in October 1994. The Prudential's systems were such that it failed to notice those cases.



Under a cloud: Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, in his 'Man from the Pru' role for the current advertising campaign

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury in charge of ensuring policyholders are compensated, said: "I am extremely disappointed that the Pru has failed to meet its targets. The ordinary man and woman in the street are affected by pension firms failing to get cases sorted out - the people that should be the key priority in this sorry saga."

Prudential said yesterday that it had taken action to address the issue by appointing Price Waterhouse, the chartered accountancy firm, to help with the review. Alan Smith, until recently in charge of Prudential's takeover of Scottish Amicable, will head the review.

Jim Sutcliffe, chief executive of Prudential's UK life assurance operation, Prudential Assurance, left the company three weeks ago. City sources believe he was expected to take the blame after Prudential learned of the forthcoming "naming and shaming" by the SIB.

In a statement, Prudential said: "We are very concerned that we have failed to meet agreed targets in our resolution of past personal pensions cases. We have now made significant changes to our management approach and our operations controls to address our earlier failings.

"We are making every effort to catch up on lost ground and to meet future targets and we believe that we are capable of achieving them."

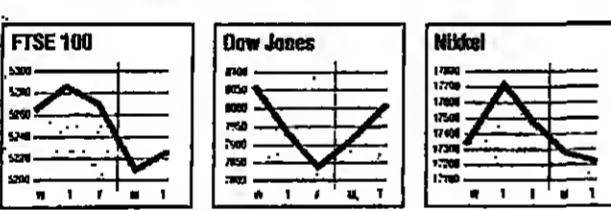
Although some companies guilty of pensions mis-selling, such as United Assurance, have more than 10 per cent of their total staff at work on the review, Prudential has assigned less than 400 of its 16,500 UK staff to clear up the problem.

However, Peter Davis, group chief executive since July 1995 and the man with ultimate responsibility for the review, declined to make any comment yesterday. The self-styled "Man from the Pru", whose reassuring voice is currently audible on television advertisements, is also in charge of a central plank of Government policy costing hundreds of millions of pounds - Welfare to Work initiative.

The Treasury yesterday declined to comment on Mr Davis's position except to say he had been appointed for his experience in youth training. Mr Davis refused to comment.

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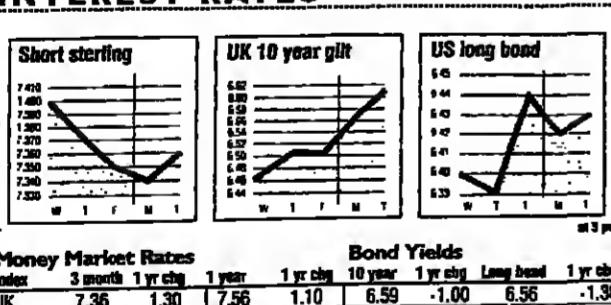
STOCK MARKETS



*Dow Jones index and graph at 8pm

Indices	Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5225.90	14.90	0.29	0.21	5330.80	3900.40	3.32
FTSE 250	4918.60	10.10	0.21	0.22	4963.80	4348.10	3.30
FTSE 350	2517.90	6.80	0.27	0.27	2558.30	1949.20	3.32
FTSE All Share	2460.98	6.48	0.26	0.26	2492.41	1925.79	3.31
FTSE SmallCap	2402.1	4.10	0.17	0.17	2406.20	2128.40	3.12
FTSE Hedging	1310.9	1.50	0.12	0.12	1346.50	1198.70	3.24
FTSE AIM	1013.7	0.40	0.04	0.04	1138.00	1003.80	0.98
Dow Jones	8007.15	82.27	1.04	1.27	8258.31	5872.73	1.67
Nikkei	17210.09	-84.42	-0.49	-0.56	21418.25	17204.70	0.83
Hanx Senki	12403.10	-567.78	-4.38	-3.67	16573.27	12055.17	3.35
Dax	4139.50	88.75	2.44	0.56	4438.93	2659.25	1.98

INTEREST RATES

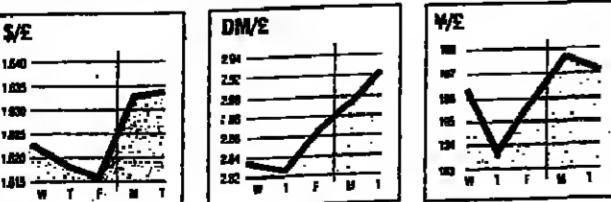


Money Market Rates	Index	3 months	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	Long term	1 yr chg
Bond Yields	Index	3 months	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	Long term	1 yr chg
Short sterling	UK 10 year gilt	7.36	7.56	1.10	6.59	-1.00	6.56
UK 10 year gilt	US long bond	7.36	7.56	1.10	6.59	-1.00	6.56
US long bond	DM 10 year gilt	7.36	7.56	1.10	6.59	-1.00	6.56

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (\$)	Chg (\$)	% Chg	Falls	Price (\$)	Chg (\$)	% Chg
Bolcomposites	585.00	40.00	7.34	RJG Mining	191.00	-44.00	-21.91
WPP Grp	285.00	15.00	5.48	Renewable	73.50	-4.00	-4.19
Sypharmas	63.50	3.00	4.96	Wobsey	513.00	-20.00	-3.74
Pet Higgs	705.50	33.00	4.68	Assoc BH Food	450	-19	-0.52

CURRENCIES



Pound	At Spot	Change	1 yr Ago	At Spot	Change	1 yr Ago	At Spot	Change	1 yr Ago
Dollar	1.6342	+0.406	1.5629	0.6119	-0.156	0.8278			
D-Mark	2.9226	+3.419	2.4443	1.7882	+1.610	1.5322			
Yen	197.03	-0.79	178.51	120.57	-0.78	112.75			
Euro	102.30	+0.80	89.00	105.40	+0.10	97.60			

OTHER INDICATORS

Class	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Ago	
Brent Oil (\$)	19.29	-0.08	24.68	GDP	112.80	3.50	109.0
Gold (\$)	323.35	-0.10	319.80	RPI	159.30	3.6	153.76
Silver (\$)	4.96	0.02	4.90	Basis Rates	7.00	5.75	

www.bloomberg.com

source: Bloomberg

Rover performs marketing U-turn to jettison niche image

Rover has reversed its marketing strategy after internal consumer research showed the car maker's attempts to ape its German parent and become a "British BMW" had created widespread confusion. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on BMW's struggle to restore Rover's fortunes.

After months of research with consumer focus groups Rover yesterday admitted that its main UK brand was "in the doldrums" and would take years to sort out. Despite hundreds of millions of pounds pumped

into Rover since the 1994 takeover, executives led by Walter Hasselkus, the chairman, had decided that the thinking behind its current model range was misconceived.

Behind the scenes the company has performed a marketing U-turn, jettisoning the upmarket niche image for a head-on challenge to volume offerings from Ford and Vauxhall. In a surprisingly frank assessment, a spokesman yesterday described Rover as a "problem brand".

He continued: "Rover's image has been in the doldrums. Some of that misunderstanding came from the link with Honda, which compromised the brand's 'Roverness'. It's going to take us several years to re-establish Rover. We can't take that huge leap overnight."

The transformation is the

work of Tom Purves, sales and marketing head and Martin Runnacles, marketing director, both brought in from BMW last year. Results from the focus groups, which the company would not reveal in detail for commercial reasons, showed consumers had not been taken in by the drive-up market, begun under Rover's previous owner, British Aerospace.

The U-turn is a damning indictment of Rover's most recent new cars, the 400 and 200, both of which were based on Hondas. The 400 is the size of a Ford Escort but sells for the price of a Mondeo, while the 200 is bigger than a Fiesta but is priced alongside the Escort range.

Rover said new cars would be more conventional in size and price. "They will fit into the well understood hierarchy,"

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Minister rules out aid for RJB

The Energy Minister, John Battle, yesterday ruled out any direct financial aid to help RJB Mining keep its pits open. The development came as Britain's biggest coal producer saw its share price crash by 24 per cent following a sell note from a City broker. Michael Harrison reports.

Mr Battle warned Richard Budge, RJB's chief executive, in the bluntest of terms not to expect any support from the Government in its negotiations with the electricity generators over new long-term supply deals. The contracts are vital to keep collieries open. As many as six pits employing 4,000 men are facing possible closure.

But Mr Budge said: "I have no say at the table and I don't know what Mr Budge thinks I might have. Any direct subsidy would be grossly unfair to other companies who are negotiating contracts."

The minister added that the Government was exploring every avenue for supporting clean coal technology. But he refused to be drawn on whether this would be given direct subsidy either, pointing out that RJB's problems were more immediate since the existing contracts, accounting for nearly 90 per cent of its output, run out next March.

RJB wants the Government to impose a moratorium on the building of any further gas-fired stations while it conducts a review of energy policy. It has also canvassed the idea of being allowed to take over any coal-fired plant that the three big generators - National Power, PowerGen and Eastern, should decide to mothball.

Meanwhile, shares in RJB fell by 56.5p in close at 183.5p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said the stock was 60 per cent overvalued and forecast a 90 per cent fall in profits. A note from the broker cast doubt over RJB's future prospects in the face of competition from imports and the "dash for gas".

However, Charles Kermot, an analyst with Paribas, said the reaction had been overdone. RJB issued shares at 320p in 1995 to finance its £15m acquisition of the English coalfields and at one point the shares touched 650p. Mr Kermot said investors had behaved like "sheep on the way up and headless chickens on the way down".

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

SmithKline could rest on its laurels

It is ironic that with merger fever now running high, one of the few industries where there is a clear case for rationalisation and global companies has seen practically no action since 1995. That industry, of course, is pharmaceuticals. There are some obvious reasons why. Healthy volume growth and rising share prices have taken the pressure off management to make big and risky strategic moves. President Bill Clinton's health-care reforms, which threatened to cut drug prices, have fizzled out. But, with some two dozen sizeable drug companies around the world and even the biggest, Glaxo Wellcome, accounting for less than 5 per cent of the market, the case for further consolidation is overwhelming.

SmithKline Beecham, which reported third-quarter figures yesterday, is a perfect example of its industry. Right now, Ian Lescly, SmithKline's chief executive, has reason to be happy. New products like Serotax for depression and vaccines are driving strong top-line sales growth. Drugs introduced in the last five years soared 41 per cent to £420m in the quarter — almost two-fifths of total pharmaceutical sales, up 16 per cent to £1bn.

SmithKline Beecham: At a glance

Market value: £33.6bn, share price 603p (+8p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997
	Full year			Third quarter
Turnover (£bn)	6.07	7.01	7.93	1.98
Pre-tax profits (£m)	691	1,623	1,545	374
Earnings per share (p)†	1.3	17.8	19.0	4.8
Dividends per share (p)‡	0.4	7.0	9.0	2.0
				2.205

*Includes foreign income dividend
†Restated after 2 for 1 share split
‡Sales by division

Sales by division

Division	Share
Drugs	57%
Consumer	30%
Labs	11%

Share price

Source: Bloomberg

With 90 per cent of the US market in anti-smoking products and strong brands like Rizena and Aquafresh behind it, the group's consumer healthcare side is also growing fast. Even clinical laboratories, traditionally the weak spot, is recovering as demand rises. And SmithKline is building a promising heart drug portfolio and extending its involvement in genetic research. With no patent expiries until 2002, it could rest on its laurels. Investors certainly have no reason to complain. Its shares, up 8p to 603p yesterday, have beaten the FTSE All share index by 110 per cent since 1994.

While the good times last and the industry remains highly valued, SmithKline is not pressured to act. But if at some point the environment changes — a Clinton successor starts clamping down on drug prices or a pharmaceutical giant stumbles and share prices fall — the rationale for takeovers in the sector will reappear. In those circumstances SmithKline may have to rethink. It is not in the bulge bracket of mega-sized players like Glaxo and Merck and though on 30 times this year's earnings, is undervalued compared with the big US groups. Rather than face the prospect of a hostile takeover bid, it would do Mr Lescly no harm to contemplate a friendly merger.

Firm foundations at Wolseley

Wolseley has been one of the stars of the building sector. It has consistently produced robust results while others have fallen by the wayside or been forced to announce countless restructuring and write-downs. However, even Wolseley was not able to escape the industry's woes entirely and pre-tax profits last year dipped slightly, tarnishing a virtually unblemished earnings record.

Now the worst looks over. The construction sector is finally improving, spurred by the strong rise in demand for new homes. This has allowed Wolseley to rebuild the margins at its building merchants chain, its core business. And there should be plenty of growth to come.

The housing recovery has yet to feed through to the group's repair and maintenance market, which should lead to more work for small builders who buy their plumbing and heating kit from Wolseley. A great performance from the group's US merchants business also helped Wolseley to raise profits by 9 per cent to £264m for the year to July despite an £11m currency hit.

Wolseley has the financial muscle to spend around £300m on a sizeable acquisition. Whether it can find a decent target is another matter. It may have to rely on small bolt-on purchases, although this policy has worked well in the past.

Wolseley still has its share of problems. It will be pushed to maintain its outstanding rates of growth in the US and there are fears the union of two big rivals, Harcros and Jevson, may increase competition in the UK. After a good run the shares fell 20p to 515p yesterday. BZW has maintained its current-year profit forecasts at £288m, putting the group on a prospective p/e of 15. Hold.

Harrisons & Crosfield, the troubled chemicals to building group, is to break itself up and return at least 50p a share to long-suffering shareholders.

Andrew Yates reports on the latest conglomerate to come unstuck.

The company yesterday sold its Harcros builders merchant chain to Meyer for £18m. The group has also put a for sale sign over its underperforming food and agriculture division.

Harrisons will become a specialty chemicals business, supplying ingredients used to produce an array of paints and coatings.

The Harrisons & Crosfield name, which has been around since 1844, will also disappear. The new group will be called Elements after it is broken up.

Bill Turcan, chief executive of Harrisons, said: "The name Elements suits our new chemical business, conjuring up images of elements and ingredients. Prospects for our chemical division are good and we are looking at buying more specialty chemical businesses."

Harrisons plans to give back £35m to shareholders by early next

year, equivalent to 50p a share. It is considering giving more money back to investors if it cannot find suitable chemical purchases.

However Mr Turcan said he would look to spend the proceeds of the food and agriculture first and foremost on acquisitions.

Analysts believe the sale of the food and agriculture division could raise between £200m and £250m, although it may keep hold of the businesses if it cannot get a decent price. Harrisons is also due to receive £39m from the sale of its US builders merchant, Moore's.

The food and agriculture division includes BOCM Pauls, the cattle and pig feed business whose profits have been hit hard by the BSE crisis and more recently a sharp fall in pig prices. The malt business, which supplies the beer market, and Edward Peatfords are also up for sale.

One analyst said: "Harrisons has been a real dog for the past few years. This move was inevitable and makes sense. However there are still risks attached to the stock."

Harrisons' investors welcomed the news, pushing the share price up 3p to 134.5p, however Meyer's shares fell 10.5p to 400p.

Meyer, which already owns the Jevson chain, will become the biggest builders' merchant in the



Alan Peterson (left), Meyer's chief operating officer, and John Dobby, chief executive, yesterday. The group will become the biggest builders' merchant chain

Photograph: Christian Schwetz

Ryanair sparks new price war with winter bargain fares

Ryanair, the low-cost Irish airline that floated earlier this year, yesterday sparked a fresh price war on the London-Dublin route by introducing a £19 one-way fare. Michael Harrison examines the carrier's strategy and its expansion plans.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, served notice that the aggressive price-cutting tactics that have seen the airline become the market leader across the Irish sea would be used to expand further into Europe.

Ryanair plans to double the size of its fleet to 40 aircraft in the next five years and add at least another half dozen European routes.

Its low-cost, no-frills service — based on the formula pioneered

by the US carrier South West — has seen Ryanair more than double its share of the London-Dublin market, the busiest in Europe, with four million passengers a year, to 37 per cent in the last six years.

The winter schedule, announced yesterday, includes a 40 per cent increase in capacity and a range of bargain deals including a £9 one-way fare from London to Glasgow. Ryanair said the £19 one-way fare from London to Dublin was £10 cheaper than its nearest rival Easyjet, and would be available without strings such as advance purchase. It will not be available, however, over the Christmas and New Year holiday period — one of the busiest on the Irish sea routes.

The European expansion will see Ryanair consolidate its position as the biggest carrier at Stansted, where it will carry 2 million of the 6 million passengers the airport expects to handle this year.

Redrow Group, the Cheshire-based housebuilder, has bought a 140-acre development site in Dunfermline, Scotland with potential for up to 1,600 homes and a projected value of £130m.

The stores will be rebranded under the Budgens name and should benefit from the greater buying power. And Budgens could introduce some of its higher-margin own-brand labels, though some 7-Elevens are too small to offer much of a choice.

The additional stores, which average 1,200 sq ft, will enable Budgens to make fuller use of its currently under-utilised distribution centre in Wellingborough.

But there are potential problems. For a start, the 7-Eleven stores don't actually make any money. They broke-even on sales of £55m last year and analysts are not forecasting profits in the coming year.

And operating these kind of stores in urban locations is difficult as staff turnover and shrinkage (theft) are high.

However, Budgens already operates in metropolitan areas and has proved better at it than many. The real benefit should be in the margin. Budgens will maintain the premium pricing policy of the new stores and with buying costs reduced, the benefits should start to accrue.

Budgens shares have had a good run since the summer, rising from 40p to 54.5p, up another 4p yesterday. Assuming full-year profits of £10.4m, they trade on a forward p/e of nearly 14 times, which is not too demanding. Hold.

Redrow buys Scottish development site

Redrow Group, the Cheshire-based housebuilder, has bought a 140-acre development site in Dunfermline, Scotland with potential for up to 1,600 homes and a projected value of £130m.

The company refused to divulge the price it paid for the land, which is next to a large Hyundai car factory currently under construction.

The site is also next to a number of business parks, and is linked by the M90 and A90 to Edinburgh, which is 15 miles away.

Redrow said that the new houses in Dunfermline would be a mix of starter homes for factory

workers and executive flats for commuters to Edinburgh.

In the year to June Redrow built 2,600 homes throughout Britain. The company founded its Scottish division only two years ago. It has developments in Dalgety Bay in the east and Hamilton, Kilmarnock and Kilbarchan in the west.

The Dunfermline site is part of the East Expansion Area, which is set to provide the bulk of Dunfermline's housing and business expansion up to 2020.

Redrow sees it as providing a solid base for the company in the region.

Last month Steve Morgan,

Redrow's multi-millionaire executive chairman, said he was "uncomfortable" with the fast rate of growth in house prices in the London market, but said there was "absolutely no sign" of a housing boom elsewhere.

Redrow announced pre-tax profits up 36 per cent to £36m in the year to June.

House completions increased by 16 per cent to 2,629 and operating margins a full percentage point to 13.8 per cent.

Robert Jones, a former Conservative minister for planning and construction, joined the company in the summer as a non-executive director.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



British businessmen are holding their breath to see whether Mahathir Mohamad, the premier of Malaysia and scourge of western currency speculators, will turn up to address a high-powered Commonwealth Business Forum today.

The Forum is the first of its kind to bring together "leading industrialists, financiers, presidents and prime ministers ... as a global network for trade and investment".

Mr Mahathir, of course, has recently gone on record saying he would like to make currency speculation a criminal offence. Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT Industries and former head of SG Warburg, says the tricky task of chairing the forum.

Tony Blair will address the forum on the subject of "Trade, Investment and Sustainable Development: The Commonwealth in the Global Economy."

The question is — will Mr Mahathir have them locked up?

Metal Bulletin, the British publishing company, has just bought 15 per cent of Lamp Technologies, an Internet software business based in Dallas Texas. Lamp's president is Aladdin Alghazaleh. I'm sure they'll rub along.

This year's UK Monopoly Championships requires six bankers from the City to volunteer for a couple of hours work this Thursday afternoon at the Savoy, central London. The annual competition, held by Waddingtons, is celebrating its quarter century.

It needs the half-dozen bankers to deal with the folding stuff, starting at four o'clock. The organisers would also like to get in touch with the first ever World Monopoly Champion, a merchant banker from Dublin called John Mair, who won it in 1975 at the Cen Plaza Hotel in Wash-

ington DC. Mr Mair "beat off competition from Belgium, Norway and Great Britain despite tripping over a television cable and mistaking his gin and tonic for a dice shaker," say Waddingtons.

Las but not least, the company wants to track down Bill Smith and Brian Nettall, the property developers who organised the first ever UK Monopoly Championships in 1972 in the City. The duo worked for a company called Mithras Properties. For further information about the competition contact Steve Bradley on 0161-273 5923.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Reliance (F)	43.1m (16.0m)	1.95m (0.61m)	2.12p (0.05p)	0.5p (0.01)
Scource Retail (G)	59.95m (45.2m)	8.95m (7.62m)	8.22p (7.29p)	1p (0.91p)
Sparsave (I)	0.45m (0.08m)	-0.37m (-0.08m)	-2p (-0.5p)	- (1)
Charlton Athletic (F)	4.33m (3.69m)	0.25m (1.16m)	1.57p (-0.07p)	n/- (1)
David Brown (I)	91.8m (90.8m)	9.4m (9.5m)	9.9p (9.5p)	2.9p (2.65p)
Asda (I)	48.1m (8.63m)	2.8m (1.1m)	1.04p (0.62p)	- (1)
Other Salomon Gp (G)	41.1m (41.8m)	1.95m (1.92m)	6.53p (6.18p)	1.65p
On-Line (F)	504.0m (-)	115m (-)	4.5p (-)	- (1)
Patterson Zachuti (F)	350m (361m)	38.2m (29.2m)	43.05p (39.05p)	17.20p (16.05p)
Tioxide Group (I)	20.8m (23.8m)	-0.20m (-3.35m)	-0.21p (-3.8p)	- (1)
Scottish Metropolitan Property (F)	- (1)	7.47m (9.34m)	4.2p (4.4p)	3.0p (2.75p)
Woolsey Estates (F)	4.50m (4.31m)	254m (243m)	31.07p (29.16p)	11.4p (10.35p)
F. Final (I) - interim (1) signs for 18 month period				

25/BUSINESS



OUTLOOK ON THE PRU'S REPRIMAND, ROVER'S PROSPECTS AND NEW CORPORATE NAMES

John Dobby, chief executive, John Dobby & Sons, says: "I am deeply sorry to lead to the recent criticism of the Prudential Commission's handling of the pension mis-selling scandal. We have been fully co-operative with the inquiry and are taking steps to ensure that it does not happen again. I would like to thank all our policyholders for their continued support and trust in us."

ms number
or mobiles

Oftel attacks BSkyB dominance in premium sport

BSkyB is coming under pressure from Oftel, the industry regulator, to provide fairer access to its premium sports and movie channels to allow other television programmers to enter the market. The news coincides with plans by Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, to reposition itself as a rival to BSkyB. *Cathy Newman reports.*

Don Cruickshank, the director-general of telecommunications, told cable industry executives at the European Cable Communications conference yesterday that programmers should be able to provide alternatives to the BSkyB multichannel package. "It should not be the case that the only route to premium sports is via BSkyB's satellite package," he said.

He added that "dominant operators" such as BSkyB should "supply premium channels on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms".

Cable and satellite customers can at the moment only buy premium channels such as Sky Sports and Sky Movies if they have bought a basic tier of



Flextech has held talks with Don Cruickshank (above) about repositioning itself as a rival to BSkyB

"unenthusiastic" about the proposals.

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, said: "We believe we've got sufficient channel mass to offer an attractive basic package." He added that the plans were "fully supported by the regulators".

UKTV, the joint venture between the BBC and Flextech, launches at the beginning of next month.

However, one analyst said yesterday that the proposals were being used to force BSkyB to increase the sum it pays for Flextech's channels.

Mr Cruickshank gave a warning yesterday on future

consolidation in the cable industry. He said that the competition authorities may not look so favourably on deals such as the four-way merger which formed Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) in April now that cable operators were "broadly-based national telecommunications companies". Telewest Communications and NTL are currently holding merger talks.

Separately, Mr Cruickshank said Oftel was prepared to be "sympathetic and flexible" to cable operators' requests to change their licences to allow them to slow down or freeze the completion of their networks.

Government offers businesses chance to amend Competition Bill

Gyrus founders announce plans to float next month

Minimally invasive surgery makes real economic sense for cash-strapped health authorities plagued by bed shortages, claimed Mark Noble, a surgeon who yesterday announced plans to float his Gyrus medical instruments company on the stock market.

Gyrus, which will be valued at around £45m, designs, manufactures and sells hi-tech surgical devices for minimal invasive surgery.

Mr Noble said: "The market for minimal invasive surgery is booming, particularly in sports injuries where the cost of an athlete spending time in hospital can be considerable. The economics are compelling."

The company was founded in 1989 by Mr Noble, now managing director, and his brother Colin, technical director, and an electronic engineer who together will own 24 per cent of the company when it lists on the main market early next month. Neither of the brothers will sell shares when the company lists. The US healthcare giant, Johnson & Johnson, will maintain its 18 per

cent shareholding. Though Gyrus is a British company, manufacturing out of Cardiff, it currently sells only into the American market.

Though the group had yet to make a profit, reporting £2m of losses on £1.6m sales in the year to June, Mr Noble said demand for his products were soaring.

The flotation, which will raise £12m of new money, will enable the company to expand its manufacturing capacity, establish a sales force in Europe and fund research into new product areas like ear, nose and throat instruments.

European surgeons only use this technique in half of the operations which could be done this way, compared with a 80 per cent use rate in the US.

Mr Noble said that unlike laser treatments and conventional bipolar electro-surgery, the company's instruments removed tissue faster, involved less bleeding and eliminated the need to retrieve pieces of tissue from surgery site. The company is being advised by Panmure Gordon.

— Sameena Ahmed

nounced, remove documents, question executives under threat of criminal sanction and impose fines equivalent to 10 per cent of turnover.

Addressing a conference organised by the CBI and the competition lawyers Berwin Leighton, Mr Battle stressed, however, that the legislation was about deterrence, not punishment. "We do not wish to place undue burdens on business or tinker with that which works but we are determined to introduce an effective deterrent," he added.

He conceded that the Bill, which runs to 72 clauses and 15,000 words together with a further 14 schedules running to 20,000 words, was complex. But he maintained the Department of Trade and Industry's approach had been warmly welcomed by consumers, businesses and the legal establishment. The existing Restrictive Trade Practices Act was inadequate and there were significant failings in the powers of the OFT to investigate and punish cartels. The Bill is due to get its second reading on 30 October.

— Sameena Ahmed

Abdicating executive responsibility at the Pru

"Hi, I'm Peter Davis, the man from the Pru. As you know we've been selling life assurance here at the Pru since the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, and we are intensely jealous of our reputation for integrity and diligence. Unfortunately we seem of late to have had a spot of bother with the regulators. I'm sorry to have to inform all you policy holders out there that we've been heavily criticised by the Securities and Investments Board over our failure adequately to address the pensions mis-selling scandal. The SIB may be about to be assigned to the dustbin of history, but boy does it have some bite in its dying hours.

They can't fine me, of course. For some reason, don't ask me why, the SIB isn't allowed to fine anyone, unlike the self regulating organisations that operate under its umbrella. I imagine that's one of the reasons why we at the Pru opted to be directly regulated by the SIB, rather than the Personal Investment Authority like everyone else. As it happens, it has backfired on us because I think I'm right in saying we are the first to have been disciplined in quite this manner. Others have been fined and reprimanded for the mis-selling itself, or for failing to take the process of compensation seriously, but up until now nobody has been done for missing target dates for dealing with priority cases.

I'm not trying to excuse our behaviour you understand. No excuses are offered, though plenty could be. We are not even going to offer the one that everyone else uses, which is that the occupational pen-

sion funds we have to deal with have been lamentably slow in processing the reinstatement paper work. We have agreed to take this on the chin and I hope we might gain your respect for this.

Some of you may be wondering why it is that I'm not personally taking the blame for this and falling on my sword. Fair point, I've got no problem with that. The first thing that ought to be said here, however, is that I wasn't at the Pru when the pensions mis-selling took place. I only joined a couple of years ago. Ah, you may say, but you were there at the time the Pru was meant to be sorting it out and that's what what you've been reprimanded for.

As often is the case in episodes like this, my fault was in putting too much trust in others. I thought we had an adequate grip on the problem, that others would take care of it, leaving me to concentrate on strategy, mega mergers, generally restructuring the group, the Government's welfare to work review, and the multitude of other things that a busy chief executive has to do. It's a marvel that any of us find time to run the business these days. Sorting out somebody else's mess is such a bore, I'm sure you will agree. We assigned three hundred people to the task for heavens sake. You'd have thought they could handle it. They certainly told me they could.

Plainly I was wrong. So I've decided personally to take charge. Someone's got to do it, and hey, that's what I'm paid £621,000 a year for. As some of you may have noticed, I've already taken action.

Jim Sutcliffe, recently left as head of Prudential UK, and while this had nothing to do with pensions mis-selling...well, you get my drift.

I offer my sincerest condolences to those of you who have died awaiting compensation, but rest assured that I'm now wholly on the task. Price Waterhouse has been expensively hired to assist me and I have absolute faith in their abilities.

Yours, Sir Peter.

PS. I hope shortly to be announcing a major strategic merger to place your company in its rightful place at the very top of the financial services industry."

Future looks bleak for Rover

Despite the famously efficient reputation of German management, the BMW executives in charge of Rover have been forced to perform a three-point turn and admit that their marketing strategy is in tatters. The latest gear change amounts to an admission that for the last five years Rover has been wasting its time trying to climb free of the cut-throat, fleet-dominated mass car market and instead build

Rover's parent company may claim that the malaise dates back to the British Aerospace years, when Rovers were little more than rebadged Hondas. But the fact is that BMW allowed the drift in strategy to continue for at least two years after it agreed to part with the staggering sum of £500m

to take control back in 1994.

Industry insiders say the new marketing team drafted into Rover from BMW this year were horrified to find a proliferation of brand managers all working independently from each other. It was left to customer focus groups to confirm what they motorist press had been saying for months, that the 200 and 400 should never have made it off the drawing board.

The new policy is to compete head-on

with Ford and Vauxhall's volume cars, which sounds suspiciously like a recipe for losing money rather than market share. It hardly needs a rocket scientist to bring the Rover brand back to where it was in the early 1990s, when the previous 200 and 400 competed head-on with the likes of the Escort and Astra. The fruits of this down-to-earth approach will not emerge until 1999, when the new executive car is launched to replace the 600 and 800, both of which are dying.

BMW is understandably frustrated with Rover having agreed to splash out £3bn on model replacements and yet it doggedly sticks with the forecast that the business will turn a real profit in another three years.

BMW bought the business in a haze of nostalgia for the good old days of the Riley and Wolseley. Three and a half years later it understands why Sir Dick Evans wakes up every morning, looks in the mirror and thanks God that BAe no longer owns Rover.

Sooner or later someone in Munich may decide that the best course of action is to

detach Land Rover, MG and the new Mini from the old Rover Group and merge the volume business with Chrysler. The long term future of Rover as an freestanding brand looks bleaker than ever.

Elements, my dear Watson

How to revive the fortunes of a dull old conglomerate called Harrisons and Crosfield, better known for its roots as a plantation company than what it is today? Elements my dear Watson. First you hire an expensive City investment bank, in this case Schroders. Then you demerge, in Harrison's case by flogging its chain of builders merchants to Meyer, and putting the pet food and pig feed business up for sale. And then you promise to deliver some of the proceeds back to shareholders. 50p a share in this case.

But most important of all, you abandon the old name and dream up a silly new one. We've had some truly heroic attempts at this over the last six months. Burton's multiples business became Arcadia, and to the disgust of its founder, the transport group Cowie is to become Arriva. But Elements? Ah, but you miss the point. There's logic here you see. Chemicals, the business Harrisons has chosen to concentrate on, are made up of elements. Geddit? If this is really the level of thinking that has gone into the restructuring of Harrisons and Crosfield, then we shouldn't perhaps expect too much.

Budget move may fuel wage inflation

The economy could face a surge in wage inflation over the next few years as employees receive compensation for the withdrawal of profit-related pay (PRP).

Boris Clement, Labour Editor, reports on a potentially damaging consequence of the withdrawal of tax relief.

Millions of workers are expected to receive substantial wage increases over the next two years as companies abandon profit-related pay schemes.

A third of the estimated 14,500 organisations that have adopted PRP will ditch the system and intend partially or fully to consolidate the money into basic wage rates, according to a survey by the Institute of Personnel Development. Employees' representatives are bound to put pressure on the rest to follow suit.

Released on the first day of

More than half of respondents with PRP said the scheme accounted for between 3 and 10 per cent of their wage bill last year and half distributed between 3 and 10 per cent of their profits via PRP schemes. Some 54 per cent of organisations with schemes had been operating them for two to five years.

The phased withdrawal of tax relief on PRP, which was announced in the November 1996 Budget, was prompted by the mounting cost of the scheme — £1.5bn in 1996, set to rise to £3.1bn in 2001.

jim's in bradford, alan's at head office and i've just faxed them both

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26/SHARES

A last dance for the market-makers as Footsie trades off book

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN
STOCK
MARKET
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OF THE YEAR

What could be the last dance of the market-makers was in full swing yesterday as the stock market fumbled through its second day of order-driven trading.

A large slice of Footsie trades, some estimate as much as two thirds, was conducted off the order book through market-makers. And they are starting to charge heavily for the privilege of dealing with them by quoting prices outside the order book spread.

The market-makers' role will be dramatically diminished once the market becomes more accustomed to order-driven trading. "They are making hay while the sun shines," observed one trader.

Once it is fully up and running the order system will embrace the top 350 shares. Currently it takes in Footsie constituents.

Day two of the new order seemed to go smoothly, although confusion reigned over closing prices with some opting for the last order book trade, others taking the last trade, be it on the order book or not.

The main price movement, however, was outside Footsie. RJB Mining, a constituent of the supporting FTSE 250 index, crashed 56.5p to a low of 183.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson put the boot in. The shares touched 590.5p last year.

With "King Coal" already weighed down by overseas imports, the generators switch to gas and worries about more price closures, the DKB sell-off appeared at a sensitive time. The securities house suggested a dramatic profits slump which could eventually lead to yearly profits of £24m against £189.2m last year. The

death of Paul Kerr, key negotiator in the crucial talks with the generators, also undermined sentiment.

Imperial Chemical Industries hardened 2.5p to 949.5p although more downgrades appeared ahead of tomorrow's third-quarter figures. Courtaulds fell 2p to 326.5p as NatWest Securities cut its year's forecast by 6 per cent to £120m; Bass improved 6.5p to 843p with Lehman Brothers lifting its target price to 925p. Greenalls, the pubs chain, fell 5p to 368.5p after an analysts meeting and Société Générale Strauss Turnbull sell comments. Safeway improved 6p to 402p, reflecting Panmure Gordon support.

Royal Bank of Scotland shaded 5p to 697p following its investment presentation but Bank of Scotland, on determined institutional buying,

much of it outside the order-driven system, rose 21p to 540p. National Grid brightened 4.5p to 294.5p. DKB has valued the soon to be floated Energen off-shoot at a higher than expected £1.3bn. The securities house is the global co-ordinator to the telecom share sale.

Amersham International, the healthcare group, jumped

52.5p to 2,420p. It is benefiting from expectations it will move into Footsie following the completion of its merger with Nycomed, the Norwegian group. Medeva fell 8p to 229.5p on NatWest caution.

Meyer International, the timber group, was cut 10.5p to 400p on the £318m building supplies acquisition from Harwoods & Crossfield and £11.7m cash call. SBC Warburg moved the shares from hold to buy.

Jarvis, the building and rail maintenance group, added 14p to 329p; the company is gearing up for inclusion in the FTSE 250 index.

Miror Group rose 5p to 215p on the Government clearance of its Midland Independent Newspapers takeover.

Reports of encouraging seismic tests off the Falkland Islands sent Westminister 18p

higher to 137.5p. Greenwich Resources, another tiddler with off-shore Falkland interests, gained 1.5p to 19p, largely on a gold royalty. Monument Oil & Gas rose 3.5p to 89.5p with HSBC advocating support.

Independent British Health Care rose 5.5p to 89p. It disclosed it was in talks which could lead to a bid. On Monday private healthcare group Bupa agreed to sell its 21 per cent stake to prevent its £77m takeover for the Goldthorpe nursing homes chain being referred to the MMC.

Brent Walker's second preference shares jumped, for no particular reason, 2p to 25p. The company is due to be liquidated following the sale of its last significant asset, the Willian Hill betting shop chain. Even after the sale the group is thought to have debts of more than £500m.

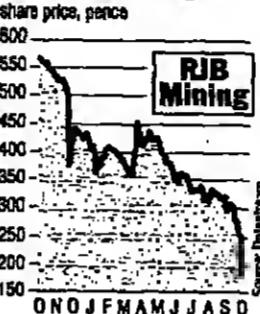
TAKING STOCK

Watch Upton & Southern, the department store chain. Management is being beefed up with managing and operation directors recruited. Idea is to give chairman Ron Treater more time to seek acquisitions and improve U&S's City image. Mr Treater, ex-Texas Homecare, has pulled the retailer round. In its last year it produced profits of £423,000 and should top £1m next year. The shares firms to 32.5p.

Birchin, the old Rushmore Wynne, is now a training group with two residential centres. Ellis & Partners see profits this year of £800,000. With the shares at 1.5p the prospective p/e is 10.7.

Alliance Resources hardened 13p against the 60p on their return to market. It has sold US assets for \$1m; other deals are in the pipeline.

Share spotlight



Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Share Price Data							
Data are in sterling unless where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend expressed as a percentage of the share price. The p/e ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, including extraordinary items but excluding dividends. Other details: Ex rights & Rights & Earnings & Sustained p/paid Up. P/A/P: nil Paid. P/A/P: nil Paid. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics.							
The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200							
To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200. You will hear the current FTSE 100 Index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report. You can increase at any time or hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying * plus a 4-digit 'code' from the keypad on this page.							
To get a Membership Number to set-up your Pardol facility, please call the Help Desk on 071- 723-0288 (during business hours).							
(TBC London EC2A 4P)							
99p calls 10p per minute.							
Sales volume: 780.1m trades 50,473 Gilt's index 99.64 -0.12							
Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes							
at 100pm							
Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Former Cof	60,000	Bank Scotland	9,27m	Smitheen Corp	2.1m	Enron	1.65m
BT	57,000	BT	8,12m	Barclays Corp	4.65m	Telecom	4.25m
Unilever	56,000	Unilever	7.95m	Midland Red	7.1m	Norwich Union	6.07m
Sears	57,000	Sears	7.05m	Barclays	6.95m	Globe Generics	5.94m
HSBC	57,500	HSBC Holdings	6.72m	Stobart	6.75m	Watson	5.77m
FTSE 100 Index hour by hour							
Open	520.8	High	526.7	Low	519.0	Up 1.9	Up 1.7%
9:00	524.7	Up 3.7	2,000	518.0	Up 6.00	6,000	Up 5.6
9:00	522.8	Up 12.8	1,000	527.3	Up 26.3	1,000	Up 14.9
Sales volume: 780.1m trades 50,473 Gilt's index 99.64 -0.12							
Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes							
Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Former Cof	60,000	Bank Scotland	9,27m	Smitheen Corp	2.1m	Enron	1.65m
BT	57,000	BT	8,12m	Barclays Corp	4.65m	Telecom	4.25m
Unilever	56,000	Unilever	7.95m	Midland Red	7.1m	Norwich Union	6.07m
Sears	57,000	Sears	7.05m	Barclays	6.95m	Globe Generics	5.94m
HSBC	57,500	HSBC Holdings	6.72m	Stobart	6.75m	Watson	5.77m
Other Financials							
Abertay Acc	60,000	ABF 19.1	2,160	Scotinvest	1,200	Heaviside Ab	2,277
Anglo-Digitel	57,000	Anglo-Digitel	1,150	ITG	1,150	Prudential	2,077
Caledonian	56,000	Caledonian	1,120	Securicor	1,120	Hornbeam	2,050
Chelmsford	55,000	Chelmsford	1,090	Shire Hse	1,090	Montgomery	2,025
City & County	54,000	City & County	1,060	Starfish	1,060	Northgate	2,000
Coventry	53,000	Coventry	1,030	Stobart	1,030	Paragon	1,975
Edinburgh	52,000	Edinburgh	1,000	Sumitomo	1,000	Prudential	1,950
First Direct	51,000	First Direct	970	Swiss Re	970	Prudential	1,925
Grange	50,000	Grange	940	Thames Tid	940	Prudential	1,900
Leeds	49,000	Leeds	910	Trinity	910	Prudential	1,875
London	48,000	London	880	Unilever	880	Prudential	1,850
Monkswood	47,000	Monkswood	850	Woolworths	850	Prudential	1,825
Northumbrian	46,000	Northumbrian	820	Yorkshire	820	Prudential	1,800
Other Financ	45,000	Other Financ	800	ABF	770	Prudential	1,775
Prudential	44,000	Prudential	770	ABF	740	Prudential	1,750
Scotinvest	43,000	Scotinvest	740	ABF	710	Prudential	1,725
Sumitomo	42,000	Sumitomo	710	ABF	680	Prudential	1,700
Swiss Re	41,000	Swiss Re	680	ABF	650	Prudential	1,675
Unilever	40,000	Unilever	650	ABF	620	Prudential	1,650
Watson	39,000	Watson	620	ABF	590	Prudential	1,625
Westpac	38,000	Westpac	600	ABF	560	Prudential	1,600
Yorkshire	37,000	Yorkshire	570	ABF	530	Prudential	1,575
Electronics							
Acorn Group	450	Acorn Group	400	AT&T	350	AT&T	320
Arco	440	Arco	380	AT&T	320	AT&T	300
Avantek	430	Avantek	360	AT&T	320	AT&T	280
BPCL	420	BPCL	350	AT&T	320	AT&T	260
Comshare	410	Comshare	340	AT&T	320	AT&T	240
Ericsson	400	Ericsson	330	AT&T	320	AT&T	220
Fujitsu	390	Fujitsu	320	AT&T	320	AT&T	200
Hitachi	380	Hitachi	310	AT&T	320	AT&T	180
Motorola	370	Motorola	300	AT&T	320	AT&T	160
NEC	360	NEC	290	AT&T	320	AT&T	140
Philips	350	Philips	280	AT&T			

27/UNIT TRUSTS

Worth Lipton & Company's department store chain management is being held up with managers recruited from directors recruited last year to give more time to sales, greater morale and improve the store's image. Mr. C. S. G. City, Texas Homecenter president, last year, saw profits of \$422,000 and \$1.2 million in sales. The third top \$100 million firm, the shares, firms to \$3.75.

Look him, the old Buckman Building, is now a training center, with two residential units, plus a business venture. Ellis & Partners is asking \$1.50 per sq. ft., this year of \$300,000 worth the shares at \$3.75. The prospective price is \$4.25.

Business Resources handled the first auction in market last week, with results for the other 10 lots are in the pipeline.

Fund	Def	Buy	Ytd	Fund	Def	Buy	Ytd	X
Portfolio Ads	129.70	114.20	213	The Corp.	641.00	681.10	618	X
Recovery Acc	302.00	60.20	121	The Own Acc.	641.50	540.00	626	
Recovery Acc	754.50	60.80	52	The Own Corp Acc	642.00	622.00	626	
UK Govt Corp Acc	751.00	72.71	148	Japan Corp Acc	642.50	500.00	626	
MutualFund Units Trust	751.00	44.44	141	Japan Corp Fund	643.00	54.76	626	
EuropAsia Plus	862.00	224.47	62	Japan Corp Fund	643.50	100.30	626	
Frontline Americas	161.72	94.00	203	Japan Corp Fund	644.00	100.30	626	
High Yield Fund	123.17	55.10	566	Japan Corp Fund	644.50	100.30	626	
HedgeFundAcc	161.70	100.00	358	Japan Corp Fund	645.00	100.30	626	
Portfolios	165.54	92.70	117	UK Corp	645.50	100.30	626	
UK Corp Acc	164.02	108.64	803	UK Corp	646.00	100.30	626	
UK Inc Acc	164.70	100.00	154	UK Corp	646.50	100.30	626	
UK Income	177.70	120.21	277	UK Corp	647.00	100.30	626	
MutualFund Units Trust				UK Corp	647.50	100.30	626	
Balanced Acc	179.20	100.00	257	UK Corp	648.00	100.30	626	
Balanced Acc	181.70	94.77	257	UK Corp	648.50	100.30	626	
Interest Acc	193.00	143.80	138	UK Corp	649.00	100.30	626	
Govt Bond Acc	193.50	171.70	461	UK Corp	649.50	100.30	626	
Corporate Bond	195.00	171.70	461	UK Corp	650.00	100.30	626	
Extra High Inc	204.00	100.00	500	UK Corp	650.50	100.30	626	
Extra High Inc Acc	204.50	100.00	500	UK Corp	651.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	206.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	651.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	206.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	652.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	206.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	652.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	207.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	653.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	207.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	653.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	208.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	654.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	208.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	654.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	208.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	655.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	209.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	655.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	209.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	656.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	210.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	656.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	210.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	657.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	210.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	657.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	211.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	658.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	211.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	658.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	212.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	659.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	212.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	659.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	212.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	660.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	213.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	660.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	213.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	661.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	214.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	661.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	214.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	662.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	214.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	662.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	215.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	663.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	215.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	663.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	216.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	664.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	216.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	664.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	216.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	665.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	217.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	665.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	217.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	666.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	218.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	666.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	218.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	667.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	218.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	667.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	219.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	668.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	219.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	668.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	220.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	669.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	220.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	669.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	220.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	670.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	221.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	670.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	221.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	671.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	222.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	671.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	222.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	672.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	222.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	672.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	223.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	673.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	223.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	673.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	224.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	674.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	224.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	674.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	224.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	675.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	225.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	675.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	225.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	676.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	226.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	676.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	226.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	677.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	226.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	677.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	227.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	678.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	227.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	678.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	228.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	679.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	228.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	679.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	228.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	680.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	229.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	680.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	229.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	681.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	230.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	681.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	230.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	682.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	230.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	682.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	231.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	683.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	231.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	683.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	232.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	684.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	232.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	684.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	232.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	685.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	233.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	685.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	233.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	686.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	234.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	686.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	234.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	687.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	234.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	687.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	235.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	688.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	235.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	688.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	236.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	689.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	236.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	689.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	236.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	690.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	237.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	690.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	237.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	691.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	238.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	691.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	238.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	692.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	238.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	692.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	239.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	693.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	239.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	693.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	240.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	694.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	240.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	694.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	240.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	695.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	241.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	695.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	241.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	696.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	242.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	696.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	242.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	697.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	242.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	697.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	243.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	698.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	243.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	698.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	244.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	699.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	244.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	699.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	244.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	700.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	245.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	700.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	245.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	701.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	246.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	701.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	246.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	702.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	246.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	702.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	247.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	703.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	247.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	703.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	248.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	704.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	248.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	704.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	248.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	705.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	249.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	705.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	249.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	706.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	250.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	706.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	250.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	707.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	250.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	707.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	251.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	708.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	251.60	90.70	500	UK Corp	708.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	252.00	90.70	500	UK Corp	709.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	252.40	90.70	500	UK Corp	709.50	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	252.80	90.70	500	UK Corp	710.00	100.30	626	
FTSE 100 Inc Acc	253.20	90.70	500	UK Corp	710			

Foreign Exchange Rates							
Country	Sterling			Dollar			D-Mark
	Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot
UK	10000			06116	06124	06138	03419
Australia	22684	22681	22689	13673	13677	13686	07755
Austria	20587	20545	20501	12580	12588	12584	21382
Belgium	60220	60110	59792	36865	36510	36702	20609
Canada	22704	22632	22508	13685	13692	13618	07762
Denmark	11337	11035	11049	6810	68005	67821	38076
ECU	14821	14785	14789	10333	10445	10105	05324
Finland	87579	87280	86911	53661	53450	53288	29942
France	8801	8789	8712	59396	59628	59628	33307
Germany	23250	23158	23089	17888	17655	17785	10000
Greece	45776	45328	45169	27955	28128	28340	16550
Hong Kong	12672	12712	12731	7495	77845	78145	43322
Ireland	11850	11742	11722	14665	14556	14647	06198
Italy	26527	26518	26478	17445	17642	17481	97529
Japan	16922	16604	16386	12042	12005	11900	67428
Malaysia	54532	54630	54843	33350	33455	33665	18644
Mexico	1210			7720			43113
Netherlands	32863	32845	32856	20753	20714	2046	12695
New Zealand	25578	25526	25439	06383	15633	15656	03534
Norway	11806	11770	11712	72200	72080	72660	40362
Portugal	28756	28698	28607	18198	18167	18141	10173
Saudi Arab	63326	63128	63115	37505	37508	37515	20867
Singapore	25774	25712	25642	15762	15745	15760	09812
South Africa	76770	77203	78218	48950	47234	48013	26947
Spain	24682	24625	24537	15086	15020	15052	24336
Sweden	12595	12564	12571	70205	78941	78800	43086
Switzerland	24343	24283	24087	14891	14840	14849	05590
US	16332			10000			

Other Spot Rate

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	16352	10000	Oman	0.6225	0.3650
Brazil	17863	10698	Pakistan	72.028	44.050
China	12544	82832	Philippines	55.922	34.200
Czech Rep	54.074	33.070	Poland	5.5849	3.4033
Egypt	5.5516	3.3953	Oster	5.9328	3.6405
Ghana	3605.5	2205.0	Russia	9.6061	5.8760
Hungary	32297	19752	South Korea	75.050	52.040
India	90211	36.350	Taiwan	49.572	30.500
Indonesia	59356	36300	Thailand	62.381	38.150
Kuwait	0.4973	0.3042	Turkey	266404	161270
Nigeria	133.26	81.500	UAE	6.0051	3.5725

Interest Rates					
UK	Germany	US	Japan		
Base	7.00%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%
France	Lombard		4.50%	Discount	5.00%
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.55%
Italy	Prime		5.25%	Spain	Discount
Discount	6.25%	Discount	3.75%	10-d Repo	2.75%
Netherlands	Denmark			Sweden	Central
Sp/Advance	3.30%	Discount	8.50%	Repo(Ave)	3.30%
				Lombard	Switzerland
				Discount	100%
				Repo(Ave)	3.63%

Bond Yield

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.85	.000	4.69	.02	5.03	.004	5.22	.005	5.28	.006
Belgium	3.93	.010	4.29	.003	4.60	.002	5.27	.000	5.79	.000
Canada	3.41	.000	4.22	.000	4.54	.002	5.16	.002	5.74	.001
ECU	4.56	.000	4.61	.000	4.82	.002	5.40	.000	5.96	.002
France	3.00	.000	4.04	.003	4.42	.000	5.18	-.001	5.70	-.001
Germany	3.57	.000	4.20	-.007	4.57	.002	5.31	.006	5.70	.003
Italy	6.00	.018	5.70	.003	5.84	.006	5.77	.003	6.20	.001
Japan	0.44	-.001	0.48	.000	0.55	.000	1.17	.000	1.94	.000
Norway	3.88	.000	4.19	.000	4.53	.000	5.23	.003	5.69	.002
Spain	4.90	-.008	4.88	-.002	5.02	.000	5.50	.002	6.02	.002
Sweden	4.27	.000	4.96	.000	5.37	.000	5.56	-.004	6.37	-.002
Switzerland	1.93	.002	2.28	.000	2.10	.003	2.87	.002	3.61	-.001
UK	5.85	-.004	7.56	-.004	6.92	-.002	8.71	-.001	6.60	.002
US	4.95	.013	5.25	.029	5.89	.001	8.07	.000	8.13	-.001

Money Market Rates

	Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Treasury Bills	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95	6.95
LIBOR						
Domestic Depos	7.06	7.06	7.06	7.06	7.06	7.06
Eurosterling Depos	7.03	7.03	7.03	7.03	7.03	7.03
Eligible Bank Bills						
Starfire CDs	7.04	7.04	7.04	7.04	7.04	7.04

Bloomberg Data



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License group on 0171 330 7077

Fund	Sell	Buy	Ytd	Fund	Sell	Buy	Ytd	Fund	Sell	Buy	Ytd
European	80025	80007	204 X	UK Govt Corp Acc	173.7	184.0	208	Exta Inc Acc	573.0	587.0	645
EuroValue Smr Cos	22311	11257	517	UK Govt Securities Limited	603.0	703.0	1000	Fair East Acc	527.1	540.7	525
Euro Value	12028	244.35	200 X	America & Gen	814.90	851.50	520	FundofFundAcc	502.0	510.0	525
Euro Value Acc	13023	130.71	050	Amer & Gen Acc	872.50	927.70	605	Jones Acc	502.0	524.4	500
Entel Income	31443	317.77	591 X	Amer Revry Acc	1010.00	1026.00	000	Nth America	542.7	554.0	500
Entel Bond	31448	312.05	525 X	Amer Secr Cos	200.00	223.00	000	Nth America Acc	544.7	565.0	500
Entel Technology	25254	252.00	525 X	Corporate Bond	200.00	223.00	000	UK Corporate	127.0	127.0	145
High Income	26251	445.00	577 X	Dividend	200.00	223.00	000	UK General Acc	133.0	135.0	500
Income & Gen	36047	430.70	207	Austrian & Gen	278.00	282.00	227	UK Income	53.27	57.00	273
Independent Fund	11045	114.28	035	Capital Acc	127.00	145.00	252	UK Income Acc	57.21	112.00	500
Innomedia	37473	340.30	000 X	Compound/Growth	462.40	480.00	084	UK Equity/Growth	58.57	53.27	572
Investment	37474	340.30	000 X	Commodity/Spec	803.20	784.70	254	UK Equity/Growth Acc	58.54	62.40	500
Japan Beta Cos	22943	229.00	000 X	Corporate Bond	100.00	100.00	000 X	UK Equity/Growth Fund	58.54	62.50	507
Nth America	52087	440.00	000 X	Dividend Acc	200.00	223.00	000 X	UK Equities Cos	150.00	132.70	107 X
Pacific Smr Cos	75255	750.50	200 X	Fund of Inv Inv	200.00	223.00	000 X	Newton Fund Managers Ltd	143.00	143.00	107
Perf. Bond	54625	543.07	000 X	Fund of Inv Inv Acc	55.00	59.00	465	2 Festive Square, Edinburgh EH3 9JH			
Perf. Bond	54626	543.07	000 X	Fund of Inv Inv Acc	70.00	80.00	048	Clare House, 64A/64B, Boreham, Essex SS14 6AB, UK			
UK Enterprises Acc	80043	781.20	037	General Acc	100.00	105.00	045	Dealing, 0120 44000000			
UK Smr Cos	13015	105.10	107	Global Fund Ing	200.00	223.00	000 X	Interest@Newtonfundmanagers.co.uk			
Heavy Cyclo Inv	10001	100.00	000 X	Global Gen	100.00	105.00	045	American Smr Cos Inc	623.4	715.0	500
Arthwright Gp	9367	98.00	021	Global Gen	100.00	105.00	045	Cash	72.42	72.42	251
Arthwright Smr	20005	212.00	211 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	European	150.00	150.00	500
Arthwright Smr	20006	212.00	211 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	General	150.00	142.00	500
Arthwright Hwy	20202	215.00	108	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	General Acc	120.04	219.03	500
Balanced	62000	71.91	236	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Growth Acc	178.00	188.00	500
EasternEnterprises	20201	45.72	000	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Growth Inv	178.00	188.00	500
Han Yield	10200	100.00	575 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Higher Income	41.00	44.00	500
Han Samuel Unit Trust Funds	10001	100.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Income	34.45	50.70	250
Enterprise Gp	50744	511.30	605 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Inv Bond	45.50	48.44	500
Enterprise	50745	511.30	605 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Inv Gp	32.50	32.50	500
Financial	50856	507.00	120	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Japan	10.00	10.00	500
Globe2000 Del Inc	20181	203.25	627 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Global Emergencies	18453	140.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
High Yield	14323	140.07	203	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Income & Gen	20021	200.00	200 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Japan Technology	50749	507.00	120	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Japanes Smr	10120	102.07	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Management	10100	100.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Marine Resources	73555	77.70	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
UK Entel Cos	20205	144.67	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
UK Smr Cos	20206	121.20	200 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
INVESTCO Fossil Management Ltd	21001	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Arts Fund	21002	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel	21003	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21004	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21005	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21006	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21007	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21008	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21009	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21010	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21011	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21012	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21013	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21014	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21015	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21016	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21017	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21018	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21019	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21020	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21021	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21022	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21023	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21024	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21025	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21026	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21027	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21028	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21029	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21030	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21031	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21032	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21033	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21034	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21035	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21036	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21037	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21038	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21039	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21040	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21041	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21042	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21043	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21044	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21045	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21046	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21047	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21048	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21049	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21050	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21051	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21052	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21053	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21054	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21055	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21056	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21057	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21058	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21059	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21060	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21061	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21062	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00	105.00	045	Leadership	25.00	25.00	500
Entel Gp	21063	210.00	000 X	Global Dividend	100.00						

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Bloomberg
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SAILING: WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE

Cayard's big play pays off to cap the Cape

A month after leaving Southampton, EF Language became the first Whitbread yacht to reach Cape Town.

Stuart Alexander hears how an instinctive tactical ploy enabled the boat to leave the main fleet and on to victory in the first leg.

No amount of early morning mist and drizzle could wipe the grin from Paul Cayard's face as he brought EF Language into the winner's enclosure in Cape Town to end the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race yesterday.

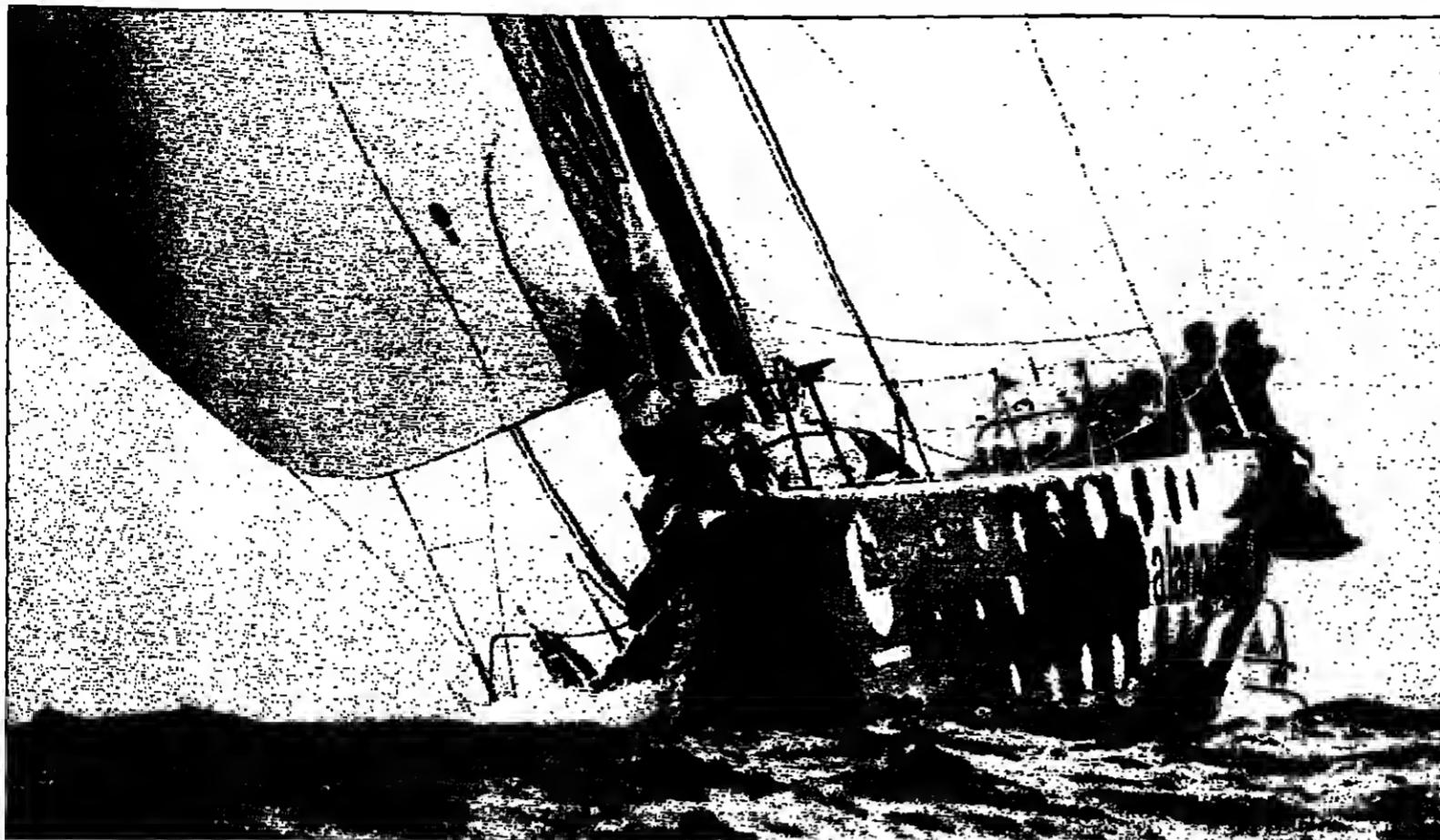
The Swedish yacht had completed the 7,350-mile leg - actually they logged 8,300 miles - in 30 days, 16 hours, 54 minutes and 26 seconds and, under the weird multiplier system, puts 125 points into the bank, including five for being first.

Wearing a full beard and moustache, Cayard's first comment was on how tough the sailing had been. "It's really tiring, it heats you up," he said, referring again to the battering from waves and spray that roars over the deck at 25mph.

Wearing a big smile, the watch leader, Magnus Olsson, added: "It's a snowball effect. You realise the boat is fast, the results start coming, and then morale is even higher and everything grows."

The margin of Cayard's victory, as softening breezes slowed the chasing pair of Grant Dalton and Knut Frostad, was emphatic, the tone of it a major endorsement of a team that was still being put together right up to the start of the race on 21 September.

The win came as a result of a key tactical decision going into the Ilha da Trindade off the south-east coast of Brazil and the determination to see it through. At the heart of it was the navigator Mark Rudiger, who at times had to fight hard



to persuade both the skipper and crew to follow his instincts.

The foundation was laid as the boats left the Solent and headed for the turning point of Ushant. Rudiger said it had started as a skipper's race. "The way the weather was setting up, even before we left Southampton it was clear the rich would get richer as they headed out of the Channel. If you could beat the current and tides, get round the corner of north-west France, you had a good chance of stretching for the first 500 to 600 miles. If ever you wanted to put the pedal down you had to do it at the start."

"The gap was so pronounced and so close to the line we wanted to take anyway it narrowed down the strategy," revealed Rudiger.

"I said we had to push this thing, we couldn't stop. The Red Sea was parting and if you didn't get your tail through in a hurry you were going to drown."

It was after Trindade that Rudiger argued to head south to where a stronger wind could be tapped. The crew, he said, had shown they had the stamina to push the boat hard and there was no doubt about the start.

"Paul not only gave us a good start, leading the fleet out of the Solent, he gave us a mind set," said the Californian, adding that Cayard had continuously posted the highest average speeds when at the helm.

The first major develop-



ment in what then became a navigator's race was at Ushant, where EF chose to sail away from the main fleet, chasing some in-shore breeze. That worked and the next hurdle was the Doldrums, an area where the northern and southern hemisphere weather systems converge and the wind dies.

"Mostly it's an instinctive thing. Sometimes Paul was having a hard time with that as he likes to be analytical,"

Rudiger said. "I said we had to push this thing, we couldn't stop. The Red Sea was parting and if you didn't get your tail through in a hurry you were going to drown."

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The first major develop-

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ATHLETICS

Chinese trio beat world record

Three Chinese women, including two trained by the coach Ma Junren, shattered the world 5,000 metres record yesterday at China's National Games.

Dong Yanmei, a protégé of Ma, recorded 14min 31.27sec, surpassing the world record of 14:36.45 set by Portugal's Fernanda Ribeiro in 1995, according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Dong's team-mate, Jiang Bo, finished in 14:31.30, and Liu Shixiang, 14:32.33, both well inside the old record.

On Sunday, the 17-year-old Dong ran 30:38.09 in the 10,000m, not far off the world record of 29:31.78 held by China's Wang Junxia.

On Saturday, Jiang, 20, took the women's 1,500m title in 3min 50.98sec, 0.52 seconds

off the world record set by China's Qu Yuxia four years ago in Beijing.

Wang and Qu were both among the first members of coach Ma's so-called "army" of women runners who stunned athletics in the early 1990s with record-breaking performances.

Their success fuelled allegations abroad of widespread drug abuse in Chinese sport, allegations that have resurfaced of late because of strong performances and records posted at the National Games.

Chinese women swimmers set two world records and six world-best times for 1997 last week.

Ma says his runners do well

because they train at high altitude and are given special herbal tonics to help them recover.

BASKETBALL

BBC to broadcast cup final

The English Basketball Association emerged briefly from the shadows of the Budweiser League yesterday to announce that BBC's Grandstand will televise live the National Cup Final at Sheffield Arena on Saturday, 17 January. Highlights of the women's final will also be shown.

The cup, the Association's flagship competition, receives a double boost with the decision by Sainsbury's to extend its sponsorship for a fourth year under the banner of the company's Classic Cola brand.

The Association's chief executive, Stephen Cattan, said: "We're absolutely delighted the BBC are becoming further involved in promoting basketball. Coupled with the announcement that Sainsbury's are continuing their support, this is a great week for English basketball."

The cup holders, London Leopards, open their defence

against Derby Storm at the London Arena on 2 November for a place in the quarter-finals. London Towers reached the last eight by beating Plymouth, a National League club, last week.

The Association's arbitration panel have ordered Richmond Jaguars, another National League club, to pay the Budweiser League's Crystal Palace £3,500 for the former England international Richard Scandlenbury.

Joel Moore, another of Richmond's former England internationals, has been banned for one game after incidents against Westminster Warriors on 4 October. Westminster's Steve Crosdale has been banned for three games and fined £25.

CLASSIC COLA Cup First round: Coventry v Thames Valley; Leicester v Newcastle; Stevenage v Manchester; Worthing v Crystal Palace; Chester v Birmingham; London Leopards v Derby; Sheffield v Watford.

- Richard Taylor

SPORTING DIGEST

American football

NFL: Buffalo 8 Indianapolis 8

Badminton

England v China (Poole Sports Centre, Dorset)

Match Two of Five: N Beck & J Davis lost to Liu Zhong and Huang Nanyan 4-5, 7-5, 10-4; Kneale lost to Zhu Feng 4-5, 7-5, 10-4; G He & S Li lost to Cheng Ru & Wang Wei 10-2, 15-2; Marn lost to Pi Hongwei 2-11, 2-1; J Quinn and J Davies lost to Ji Jingwei and Huang Nanyan 15-7, 10-5; England 1 China 4.

Basketball

The English Basketball Association

has agreed another one-year deal with

Sainsbury's Classic Cola to sponsor their National Cup competitions. The BBC have agreed to televise the men's final live and show highlights of the women's finals in January.

Boxing

WORLD AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Qualifying Selected: 67kg best 16; N Gough (Ir) vs A Noonan (Irl) 10-3

Golf

American Express will end their

three-year deal with the women's Euro-

pean Tour at the end of the season.

The credit card company

announced the end of their spon-

sorship, believed worth around £1m,

yesterday to give the tour plenty of

time to find a replacement backer.

Gymnastics

A mounting conflict within rhythmic

gymnastics in Ukraine has prompted

Yekaterina Serebryanska, the

1996 Olympic all-around gold

medalist, to pull out of the world

championships later this week in

Bratislava, Slovakia.

Yesterday, at the conference, organized

by the Ukrainian Gymnastics Federa-

tion, she quit the national team.

Cricket

Opener Aamir Sohal has been in-

cluded in the 13-strong Pakistan

squad for the third and final Test in

Pakistan.

Sovali returns after missing

the Sri Lanka Cup in Canada and a

two-month one-day home series

against India.

Kim Bennett, the former Derbyshire

captain, has signed a contract ex-

tension with the county he was in

dispute with last summer. The

37-year-old was at the centre of a bit

of row between Sibsey and the club

over his future.

He has now signed a new deal with

Derbyshire.

SECOND TEST MATCH (Sheffield Park, Park): South Africa 402 (A Baker 95, B Pollock 63, G Smith 62, N Botha 58, H Cronje 50, Mabuza Ahmed 4-122); Abenzeni 200.

Wolves yesterday completed the

£200,000 signing of the Crystal Palace

29/RACING

Wilson to leave BBC in the footsteps of O'Sullivan

Another famous voice will soon be missing from the BBC's racing coverage. Greg Wood reports on the unexpected departure of Julian Wilson.

The BBC has just celebrated its 75th birthday, but it will lose almost 100 years of experience within the next three months following the announcement yesterday that Julian Wilson, the BBC's racing correspondent since 1966, will leave the corporation at the end of the year. Wilson's departure, after the Welsh National meeting at Chepstow on 27 December, will come just a month after the retirement of Peter O'Sullivan, the BBC's principal commentator for the last 50 years.

Wilson's decision to leave his post is a considerable surprise, not least to his employers, who would not speculate yesterday on the identity of his long-term replacement. Since the Royal meeting at Ascot in June, Wilson had been sharing presentation duties with Clare Balding, and Willie Carson, who will continue to share the role for now.

Wilson joined the BBC in

1966, beating a shortlist which included Michael Stoute. Like O'Sullivan, he is a link to a different age, and is probably the only front man for BBC racing that anyone under 40 years of age can remember. "After 32 years I feel that the time has come for a change of direction," he said. "I have a strong desire to return to the world of the written word."

"It has been frustrating as a BBC correspondent to be bound by the constraints of balanced presentation. I have always felt deeply about the politics and conduct of horseracing and never more than at present.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Flying Flip (Newcastle 4.40)
NB: Knucklebuster (Exeter 3.55)

All of us feel a need to express these strong views from time to time, without constraint."

An abrupt departure from any job will appear to some in less than voluntary, but Brian Barwick, head of BBC TV sport, emphasised that "this is entirely Julian's own decision". He added that the "BBC remains totally committed to its racing coverage."

Richard Pittman, a colleague of Wilson's for many years, said: "Julian lives for his job. He knows it inside out, because he not only owns horses, he manages them for people, and all the time I've worked with him, he has been a punter, so he knew every facet of the sport and could speak with authority."

The BBC has lost some significant broadcasting contracts in recent years, not least the deal to cover the Cheltenham Festival, but did secure an agreement to cover the French Classics and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. "We were all disappointed to lose Cheltenham," Pittman said, "but I don't think that has anything to do with his decision. His heart lies more with the Flat and getting the French races was a very big plus for him."

The 1996 Arc winner, Hill, will also have a new job in the near future. The colt, who finished sixth to Peintre Celebre in the latest renewal, has been sold to stand at stud in Japan. Another stud career, however, has been put on hold. Royal Applause finished third to Carmine Lake in the Prix de l'Abbaye on Arc day, and had apparently been retired, but yesterday it was announced that he will travel to California to Goodwood on 24 September.

3.45 MAUTEY STAKES (CLASS C) £6,900 added 2YO 6f Penality Value £4,532

1 21 BULLDOGG (GB) (21) H Jennings 5.0 1. R Wilson 7
2 12 TOBLEMING (21) (9) F Gary Smith 5.0 1. L Dennis 3
3 1 3004 MUATABARA (USA) (10) H Al-Mekhene 5.0 1. J Dornan 8
4 305000 SHARPSHOT (GB) (20) S Pownall 5.0 1. M Hall 12
5 22 LEAD SINGER (GB) (20) C Doherty 5.0 1. J Dornan 7
6 3 STRACHAN (11) Edderside Rennick 5.0 1. J Dornan 9
7 7 SUGAR BEEF (GB) (21) Ailie Gove 5.0 1. P McCabe 2
8 8 CAVIAR SHINE (14) H Ryan 5.0 1. A Clark 5
9 9 EDDER HILL (17) (V) C Corlett 5.0 1. J Dornan 9
10 10 3322 KAWA-HI (20) Herton Al-Mekhene 5.0 1. R Wilson 12
11 11 660000 BALMILL BLUE (17) (M) Shesley Dwyer 5.0 1. Dame O'Neill 13
12 12 G MARAZZA (USA) (25) Ghosh Mohamed J Goossen 5.0 1. A Clark 4
13 13 MILKY WAY (GB) (18) H Elst J Morris 5.0 1. A McCabe 5
14 14 GOING (GB) (21) B T Bresnan 5.0 1. J Dornan 9
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17 17 -12 declined -

BETTING: 10-3 Mount Holly, 7-2 Assable, 5-1 Stories To Tell, 6-1 Kawa-Hi, Strachan, 12-1 Rennick, 14-1 Marazza, 16-1 Matchstick, 20-1 others.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low

● Course is N of town on A149, Yarmouth station 1m. ADMISSION: Club £2; Tuesdays £3.50; Family and course entrance £4.50. CAR PARK: 1

● LEADING TRAINERS: C Birtles - 24 winners from 124 runners gives a success ratio of 21%; M Hill - 33 wins from 124 (22%); J Dornan - 105 (17%); L Dennis 76 (7%);

● LEADING JOCKEYS: R Hill - 33 wins from 127 riders gives a success ratio of 21%; M Hill - 33 wins from 124 (26%); W Ryan 24 from 156 (15%); G Duffield 15 from 104 (14%); S Pownall 12 from 102 (12%); S Doherty 10 from 82 (12%);

BLINDFOLD: BEST STAKE: Monazza (13); Lady Rockstar (42); Scarlet Crescent (second); Magic Combination (20).

2.10 RUNHAM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 6f

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2 2 MOUNT HOLLY (GB) (20) (F) Ghosh Mohamed J Goossen 5.0 1. L Dennis 3
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31/SPORT

FOOTBALL

Mellor to avoid FA censure over Rome comments

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of three drivers have
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David Mellor, head of the football Task Force, will not be criticised for his pre-match comments in the Football Association's report into the trouble at England's World Cup qualifier against Italy in Rome earlier this month.

Mellor, who also presents a phone-in show on Radio Five Live, had warned the Italian police before the match not to be heavy-handed in their treatment of English supporters. Some, however, believed his comments angered the Italian authorities, who resented being told how to police a match in their own country.

The FA is drafting a report on the events in Rome, which will be presented to football's governing bodies, Uefa and Fifa, later this week.

David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said suggestions that they would be censoring Mellor were "misleading in the extreme", and added: "The FA's report is still being completed and conclusions have yet to be reached."

Mellor could not comment yesterday, but feels he merely attempted to prevent trouble by meeting the Italian ambassador before the match.

Dean Saunders said yesterday that he was "shell-shocked" by Nottingham Forest's decision to sell him at a cut-price fee. The struggling French side Le Havre have made an approach to the Welsh international about joining them for around £400,000.

Mark Fish, Bolton's South African defender, has returned to training just three weeks after having knee surgery and is fit to be fit for a recall against Chelsea on Sunday.

Egil Ostenstad, the Southampton striker, has flown home to Norway to undergo surgery on an ankle injury which will keep him out of action until Christmas. Ostenstad

has been unable to shake off the injury sustained on a pre-season tour of Germany.

East Fife have appealed to football's world governing body, Fifa, over the way they have been treated by Joe Public.

Not that they are complaining about their supporters, but rather the Trinidadian club Joe Public, who must justify why midfielder Arnold Dwarika is playing for them while still under contract to the Scottish Second Division club.

East Fife had agreed a deal with Joe Public, but that broke down after Dwarika failed an initial medical, but he has since played for the Trinidadian club and is now being tipped for international recognition.

Juliao Danskin, the East Fife chairman, said: "Arnold is a super guy who we don't want to receive a world ban, but he has been badly advised and we want compensating."

"He was injured and with our consent returned to Trinidad, then we came to an agreement with Joe Public, but that was never concluded because of his fitness problems and he remains registered with us. He was an outstanding player for us and we have no complaint with him personally, we just want what we feel we are owed and are confident Fifa will side with us."

Mike Jones, the Plymouth Argyle manager, has been charged with misconduct by the FA following alleged comments to referee David Crichton during his side's visit to Luton. Jones has 14 days to respond and request a personal hearing.

Charlton have signed the former England schoolboy midfielder Scott Parker on a five-year contract. Parker, 17, who made his debut against Bury earlier this season, is perhaps best known for his juggling of a football in a television advertisement for McDonald's.

— Catherine Riley



Tim Henman stretches to make a volley during his victory over Germany's Tommy Haas in Stuttgart yesterday

Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Alsport

Henman learning to live with lean times

Not long ago, Britons were expected to play poorly and lose.

Nowadays, as Tim Henman demonstrated at the Eurocard Open yesterday, they are capable of having an off day and winning. John Roberts watches the British No 2 dig in in Stuttgart.

If Tim Henman plays as well as he did yesterday when he meets Goran Ivanisevic in the second round of the \$2.3m (£1.5m) Eurocard Open today, the British No 2 is likely to be blown off the court. Henman, anxious to make amends for last week's straight sets defeat by Germany's Man-

Kevin Goellner in Lyon, managed to overcome Tommy Haas, a highly talented 19-year-old from Hamburg, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4. As the score suggests, Henman's mind might have lingered on a topspin lob called out on the previous point.

Far from steady, Henman's game, the breakthrough appeared to produce even more erratic serving, with only 30 per cent of his first deliveries finding the target. Haas, no longer able to resist, converted his ninth break point (the fifth of the set) for 2-1 and was grateful for Henman's three double-faults in the final game of the set.

Only then did Henman begin to look remotely like a top 20 player, raising his first serve percentage to 64 after worrying Haas into making errors which enabled the Briton to break for 2-1. By now, Henman's confidence in his serve had been re-

stored to the extent that he almost doubled his number of aces to finish the match with 15.

"It's the old cliché, 'It's a good match to win, but I don't think I played my best tennis,'" Henman said, making light of a sore throat. "I think in the [same] match this time last year, I would have lost. So I'm pleased to be in the next round, to give myself an opportunity to play Ivanisevic."

Asked if he was disappointed with the way he played or was reasonably happy he came through at the end, Henman borrowed the analogy of looking at a glass and deciding if it's half full or half empty. His glass was half full. "I think there are always going to be times when you struggle, but it is how you deal with it. Twelve months ago, it was pretty much the same situation. I didn't play well against [Stefan] Edberg, and I lost in

straight sets. But today, I was able to turn things around and come through the match."

Haas, a finalist in Lyon last Sunday and now ranked a career-high No 43 in the world, is one of the young players Boris Becker will be relying upon as the manager of the German Davis Cup team. Another is the 20-year-old Nicolas Kiefer, ranked No 34, who plays Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, in the second round tonight.

Yesterday, Becker was defending his title here, beating Goellner, a 27-year-old compatriot, 6-2, 6-4, after 70 minutes. Becker appeared to be troubled most by a photographer who was snapping him from a position in the roof of the stadium.

Becker complained to the umpire that he was being dazed. There again, the man is never out of the spotlight.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Australian pair miss tour

Two of Australia's major threats to Great Britain in next month's Test series have withdrawn from the tour. The Brisbane Broncos pair of Allan Langer and Steve Renouf have both pulled out with groin injuries, depriving the Australians of two world-class players.

Both failed medicals before the squad went into camp in Sydney yesterday. There was always a doubt about Langer, who struggled to make the Broncos' team in the World Club Championship final last Friday, but the absence of Renouf, rated as the best centre in the world, was unexpected.

Australia have not made direct replacements, calling up the Cronulla full-back, David Peachey, for Renouf and the Canberra hooker, Luke Priddis, for Langer.

— Dave Hadfield

BOXING

Hamed bound for the USA

Prince Naseem Hamed will be unveiled to the American media in New York on Monday when his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title defence at Madison Square Garden on 19 December will be confirmed at a news conference, his promoter, Frank Warren, said yesterday.

However, Hamed's opponent has still to be finalised although New York's World Boxing Union and former World Boxing Council champion, Kevin Kelley, is the man in pole position.

"I'll know about Kelley when I get to New York. We've got to sit down with Kelley's people," said Warren, who will be running another "double header" promotion on the same night, with title action from the London Arena pre-

SNOOKER

Stevens takes his chances

Matthew Stevens achieved a personal milestone in Bournemouth yesterday as Billy Sausdon suffered a case of *deja vu*.

The 20-year-old Welshman reached the quarter-finals of the £350,000 Grand Prix as another front-runner failed to stay the distance. The world No 53 recovered from 4-2 down to win 6-4 and reach the last eight of a ranking event for the first time.

For his Scottish rival it was defeat in the last 16 for the seventh time in succession, although he only had himself to blame for this latest failure. He led 4-2 and 45-22 in the seventh frame and his break had reached 41 when he miscued attempting to pot the black.

Stevens made the most of his reprieve and cleared up to begin his recovery. He added runs of 59 and 50 as Smaddon's game fell apart in the last two frames.

PSV EINDHOVEN
VS
NEWCASTLE UTD

LIVE

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30pm *Match of the Month*

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Parma v Borussia Dortmund

Spurs v Juventus

GROUP B

FC Koeln v Feyenoord

Man Utd v Liverpool

GROUP C

Derby County v Barcelona

PSV Eindhoven v Newcastle

GROUP D

Real Madrid v Olympique FC

Rosenborg BK v FC Porto

GROUP E

Bayern Munich v PSG

Borussia Dortmund v Inter Milan

GROUP F

AS Monaco v Lazio SK

Sporting Lisbon v Bayer Leverkusen

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Derby v Wimbledon

FIRST DIVISION

Charlton v Birmingham

Watford v Stoke

Wolverhampton v Tranmere

Third Division

Brighton v Leyton Orient

7.30pm *Match of the Month*

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE

Premier Division: Gillingham v Ebbsfleet United

Second Division: Spalding v S & L Conroy

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN DIVISION: Accrington Stanley v Shrewsbury Town

LEEDS PREMIER DIVISION: Wetherby v Crook Town; Skipton v Billingham Town

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE

Premier Division: Gillingham v Ebbsfleet United

Second Division: Spalding v S & L Conroy

INDIVIDUAL: 500 Session Blue Riband

Pool: Cosmic Dust (Hull)

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Manchester Giants v Wexford Royals (25/10); Thomas Valley Tigers v Coventry Blaze (26/10)

Other sports

DARTS: World Pairs Championship (Bognor Regis)

SNOKER: Bournemouth Grand Prix

TENNIS: Grobark/Your event (London)

Third Division

30 Cardiff v Hartlepool

POOLS FIXTURES AND FORECASTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 COVENTRY v BIRMINGHAM

2 LIVERPOOL v DERBY

3 MANCHESTER UNITED v BURNLEY

4 NEWCASTLE v BLACKBURN

5 SHEFFIELD WED v CRYSTAL PALACE

6 SOUTHAMPTON v FULHAM

7 WIGAN v ASTON VILLA

8 WREXHAM v BOLTON

Also playing (not on coupons):

GATESHEAD v STOKE CITY

HALIFAX v SHEFFIELD UNITED

HARROGATE v SHEFFIELD UNITED

HAR

Springboks slam the door on their exiles

South Africa's rugby administrators flew in the face of popular opinion yesterday by officially ostracising a number of World Cup winning Springbok legends from the national side. Chris Hewett weighs up the implications of a deeply controversial shift in policy.

François Pienaar and Joel Stransky always suspected their decision to swap South African krugerrands for English pounds would bring their extraordinary Springbok careers rushing headlong into a brick wall the size of Ellis Park, but it did not stop them hoping for a minor selectorial miracle. As of yesterday, that hope no longer exists. The door has finally been slammed in their faces.

Rian Oberholzer, the chief executive of the South African Rugby Football Union, confirmed that no player earning his rugby living outside the national borders would be considered for Springbok duty. His statement was stark and unequivocal and left Pienaar, the Boks' World Cup-winning captain just two years ago, and Stransky, who scored all 15 of his country's points when they beat New Zealand on that momentous afternoon in Johannesburg, up to their eyeballs in the freezing stuff.

Pienaar left Transvaal last December to throw in his lot with Saracens while Stransky joined Leicester from Western Province. They are not alone in their isolation. Gavin Johnson, the former Springbok full-back who joined Pienaar at Sarries a couple of months back, and Rudolf Straculi, a World Cup No 8 now playing his trade at Bedford, are also officially out of the frame.

So too is Fritz van Heerden, who is about to leave Cape Town to renew his acquaintance with Stransky at Welford Road. Van Heerden is by far the most

significant loss to the Boks as they prepare for a forthcoming European tour that includes one-off Tests with both England and Scotland; the imposing back-five utility forward played against the Lions in the summer and was considered an integral component of a South African pack currently being rebuilt by Nick Mallett, the new coach.

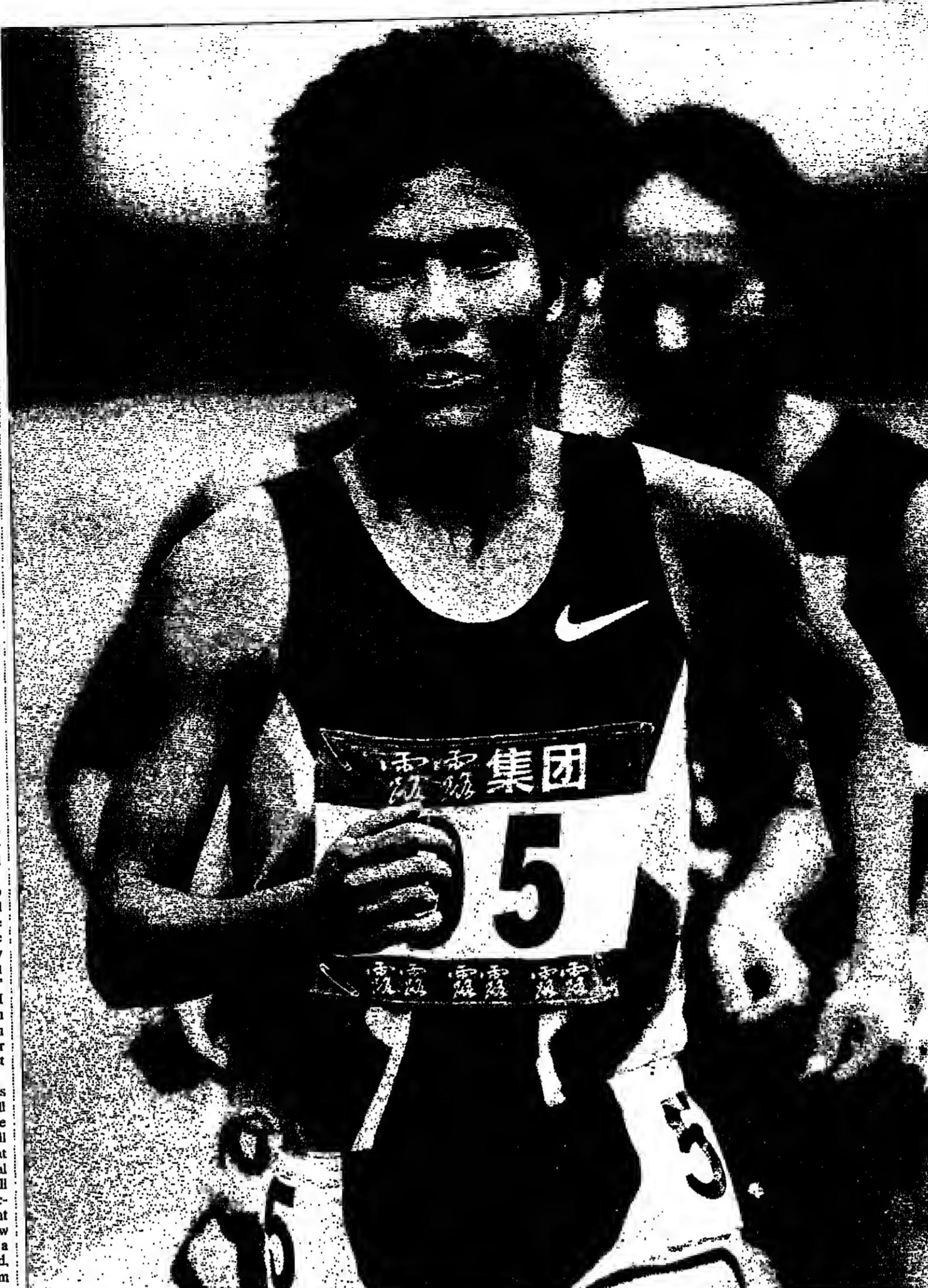
Mallett expressed his frustration yesterday. "I am very disappointed in Fritz," he said, "but I can understand that he has to look to himself from a professional viewpoint. He is married to a Dutch citizen and it is his ambition to go overseas." Privately, Mallett insists it is almost impossible to instil the right sort of team ethic into a band of foreign-based mercenaries.

That view was supported by Oberholzer, who said: "We are only following the lead set by New Zealand, who are trying to keep their players from moving to Japan and other places. This does not mean we are stopping players from going overseas. It is their choice whether they go to Europe to earn a living or whether they stay here and play for their country."

However, the decision to exile men like Van Heerden and Stransky, both of whom have plenty to contribute at the highest level, has upset many Springbok supporters. "It's not the most popular decision," admitted one Sarfie insider. "I think a lot of people very much wanted to see Fritz and Joel in Bokke colours on this tour because they're among the best we have."

The foreign block remains an executive decision and still has to be rubber-stamped by the full Sarfie board. Members will be uncomfortably aware that they do not possess a financial lever comparable to the All Blacks' new £28m kit agreement with Adidas - a deal that guarantees all of New Zealand's leading players a top-of-the-range salary and, therefore, immunity from chequebook-wielding overseas predators - but it is inconceivable that the move will be overturned.

Dong Yanmei, of China, breaks away from the pack on her way to setting a world record in the women's 5,000m during the Chinese National Games. Yanmei, coached by Ma Junren, clocked 14min 31.27sec - five seconds inside the old mark'



ROWING

President's case of the blues

Tim Foster is a Boat Race coxswain, Olympic bronze medal winner and a world champion, but that counts for nothing to the academics of Oxford University, who have left him up the Cherwell without a paddle.

Their decision not to take him aboard for a post-graduate degree in sports psychology put the 27-year-old Foster in the embarrassing position of being president of the university's boat club while not being a student there.

The 6ft 5in Foster, who led the Oxford crew in the annual meeting with Cambridge University on the Thames last March, is considered to be the most relaxed, natural stroke in British rowing. He fully expected to be taking part again in one of the key events in the British sporting calendar next spring.

Instead, he has been forced to step down and the 20-year-old Andrew Lindsay, who, as a freshman, rowed in Foster's losing crew, elected president.

It all makes for a miserable October for Foster, who last month won the coxless four World Championship with Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell.

Lindsay, who made the grade with the done by gaining a first in his first-year geography exams, said: "Of course we'll miss Tim, because he is an outstanding crewman as well as an individual star, but we have plenty of strong men to fill his place."

He is confident that with a strong squad and under the new coaching team of the Dutchman Rene Mijnders and Sean Bowden, he will be able to turn the tide of five successive defeats against the Light Blues. "We have a strong squad which includes four from last year's crew and already they are combining nicely," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."

For Foster, who has had to move to Brunel University to further his studies, the only involvement will be watching from the Tideway bank.

- Hugh Matheson

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS	DOWN
7 Interpreter has to go slowly approaching sultante (8)	20 Holy rest, perhaps, provided by The Tabard Inn (8)
9 Nothing on trial, sadly, in the market-place (6)	22 Plant in neat border (5)
10 Inapt, changing colour (5)	24 Walked purposefully in Dorset resort (6)
11 Merry tune - number one in Windscale, say? (5,3)	25 Coward's allergic reaction (3,5)
12 Assembly-rooms Mum chooses, of no variety (5,2,7)	6 Flight taking one into the Milky Way, for example (6)
13 Defence fair people listen to? (6)	8 Instrument to help bartender, say, with correct measure? (9)
14 Severe form of gastric trouble (6)	13 All-male race? That will get us nowhere! (10)
15 Pictures indexed sometimes? (6-8)	14 Match trumps in card-game (9)
	17 Approach-lines of Don Juan, for example (4-4)
	18 Establishes business with sums of money in hand (6)
	19 Mind this part of autopsy check? (6)
	21 Shelter king with national emblem (4)
	22 Hybrid fruit said to have nothing of the peach in it (4)
	23 Recline with female? Gladly, in the old days! (4)
	24 Mouth-opening lets down many an actor (4-4)
	25 Noble Century, it turns out, taken all together (2,4)
	26 Potential wooer fastening on belt (4)
	27 Traction so variable in drawer for papers (10)

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SIR BOBBY LEADS STRIKEFORCE FOR ENGLAND'S WORLD CUP BID

Sir Bobby Charlton will lead from the front as England's bid to land the 2006 World Cup steps up a gear today.

Sir Bobby is a key player in the Football Association team aiming to bring the tournament to England and he will today fly out with Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, on an eight-day visit to the United States, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, and Alec McGivern, who heads the FA's campaign, will complete the four-man delegation which will have talks with senior Fifa officials in all three countries.

McGivern said: "We've held a number of successful international events so far, but this will be the first time we've sat down with members of the Fifa executive to talk about the strengths of our bid."

BOXING

Couch presses for right to box at Wembley

Moves are being made to include Jane Couch, Britain's top woman boxer, on the bill at the Wembley Arena on December.

Panix promotions, the backers of the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, intend to apply to the British Board of Control for Couch to appear on the Herol Graham-Vinny Pazienza undercard.

The Board, however, appear to have no alternative but to wait on the outcome of Couch's industrial tribunal against them on 26 November.

The head of Panix, Panos

Eliades, believes that Couch, like men, should have the right to decide whether she wants to pursue a professional career.

Couch, from Fleetwood, Lancashire, and under contract to Panix for the last three months, made an unsuccessful application for a Board licence six months ago.

"If she wins the case, then she will still have to comply with the licence procedures, a licensed manager and all the things she supposed to have," John Morris, the Board secretary said.

"We haven't objected

The feedback we've had so far has been very positive, and people know there has never been a better time for the World Cup to come back to England.

"We're confident that our bid is the best in the world. The cornerstone of that bid is passion and professionalism and that is the message we want to take to these three vital Fifa countries.

As well as meeting the officials of the world game's governing body in these countries, we want to meet the people, to let them hear our message and see how serious we are."

The first bug to invade a computer was crushed to death in the jaws of a relay in 1945

Bugs (albeit of a somewhat different type) are still a part of computing today. No system is immune without special protection.

Morse has a history of designing and implementing resilient UNIX systems. If a critical application or server has a problem, business continues as normal.

Now, this technology is available for systems based on Microsoft NT.

Call to arrange a discussion with our Systems Resilience consulting team, or visit us at www.morse.co.uk

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